



BLADE ONLINE

BOOK 01

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Blade Online

(一ブレード オンライン)

by
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Synopsis

The world first's VRMMO 《Blade Online》service begun, around 30 thousand players started to play.

What awaits to those players is a death game which is impossible to logout from.

Though hikikomori youth, Akatsuki, is one of the players who set out to conquer the death game, he was deserted by his companion because of using a failure weapon.

Furthermore, being transferred to an area where high-level monsters dominate due to a bug and ——!?

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Chapter 0

My whole body is heavy because of tension and tiredness

Somehow controlling my rough breathing, I immediately realized the reality. Its worst if my concentration breaks more than this.

In the forest where the light of the sun hardly enters because of huge trees, I desperately avoided the attack of the monster.

A giant scorpion whose body is full covered with red colored hard shell, coming here with a terrifying speed while its four feet were moving with a [shakashaka](#). The Shield Scorpion is charging to me.

TLNOTE: shakashaka is an onomatopoeia for Rattle-rattle.

I used the skill [Mikiri](#) that I had been trained for several weeks here.

My field of vision would greatly extends when executing [Mikiri](#), it is able to know when and where the attack going to come. I confirm the position where can I avoid the charge of Shield Scorpion perfectly and greatly jump to the side using [Step](#).

TLNOTE: Mikiri means “to see with cutting minuteness” or “to see all the way with a look”

The Shield Scorpion charged as it is and crashed into a tree.

I've got it!, a chance!.

「◆Haaaa!◆」

I slide the sword in my hand into the chink/crack of Shield Scorpion's shell. 〈Jupu〉, transmitting a detestable reaction of Shield Scorpion at the same time the number displayed in HP bar decreases little by little. The HP bar that was in the Red Zone is shaved to the end and it disappears.

The Shield Scorpion screaming with a ◆〈kishaaa〉 and it disappeared with a grain of lights.

This is death in this World. Not only with that guy, I as well die if my HP bar disappears in the same way. And it does not have a possibility to revive.

2 consecutive level up sound was heard. The experience value received by defeating that Shield Scorpion and then the level would rise.

Originally, Shield Scorpion isn't a monster which can be beaten by a low-level player like me. That is why my level went up twice quickly.

It is because I keep fighting the Shield Scorpion for a long time, From morning to now, that i was able to defeat such a high level monster. By the way, the present time is 6:30 pm.

I avoided that guy's attack purposely into crashing to trees and make it falter and damage it by inserting the blade into the chink/crack of the shell. And which i keep repeating. A while ago, Its was finally possible to defeat it.

Honestly, standing further more is painful and exhausting.

Because the Item automatically stored in the Item Box when the monster was defeated, There is no meaning to remain in this place. Let's return to the cave.

I, no. We, several months after coming to this world.

From the time when the service of VRMMO 《Blade Online◆》 begun. The hell started.

Chapter 1

20 years ago, Virtual reality technology is developed for training the army and is now used all over the world. Bodily sensation model virtual space device, 《Dream》, inside is a virtual space used for nursing, sports and etc. were making progress, while game technology was being left behind.

Because of visual, data and other issues, games that came out from 《Dream》were all nothing but hearth-warming livelihood series. Voice of dissatisfaction rises from the players who like extreme games. Meanwhile, a certain game company announced that they successfully developed a VRMMO 《Blade Online》. The players were delighted and eagerly and impatiently waiting for the release.

Two years later after the announcement. The game company distributed 《Blade Online》 limiting the amount to those who applied for beta-version. I, Yashiro Akatsuki, also applied for beta-version and was chosen by a lottery.

That is to say, I, inside the game and fighting monster is the most enjoyable as I expected. I, until the end of beta version, Everyday for many hours plays and eventually conquered the game.

And two months after that, 《Blade Online》 was finally released.

『It's near』

Garon, the player that I got acquainted in beta-version and see the chat that he send, the feeling of tension is further increased.

《Blade Online》 service starts in 12 o'clock this afternoon and I already set 《Dream》 in my head so that i would not get a late start. I would turn on the power the moment that it became 12 o'clock to make sure that I would have a late start.

Though those players that plays beta-version have an advantage, if they stay idle. soon they'll be surpassed. I join gallon and his companions in the game and initiate the plan to conquer the game immediately.

[「With this, I can now escape from reality.」](#)

TLNOTE: Original is ” I can now divert my attention from reality”, I change it so that it would be hikikomori like dialog.

I muttered while looking at the package of 《Blade Online》.

I don't have a parent. When i was small, both had died because of a traffic accident. Since I was still small, it was decided that I and my little sister Shiori, will be taken to our grandmother's house . I promised at that time. Whatever happens, I'll protect Shiori. By simply hugging my little sister, it brings 『Akatsuki-oniichan's』 happiness.

That's another matter. I failed to pass an university entrance exam hence I became a [ronin](#). I thought I would pass it. It hurts

when I thought I passed because of having a good result in mock examination. However, I failed. With that sort of expectation, I check many times but a reality of me passing was nonexistent. That is why i ran away from reality.

TLNOTE: Ronin means someone who waits for another entrance exam.

Though my grandmother gave me a money to go to a preparatory school, I bought the game using it. I can't bring myself to study. And there is no intention of getting a job. Just myself living everyday unrestrained.

I think that I'm worst. and was scorned by Shiori, who's currently in high school. My grandmother says nothing and still cooks for me who plays game in the house. It does not mean that i don't feel sad. It just that i can't bring myself to do anything.

Which reminds me, isn't Shiori going to stay at her friend's house. Because she also like games, she might be waiting for the start of 《Blade Online》 with that friend.

While thinking about these kind of things, the display in the digital clock turned to 12:00. I turned on 《Dream》 and started 《Blade Online》. In front if my eye is slowly turning into black and eventually swallowed by darkness.

In the world of 《Blade Online》 where monsters dominate... 《Arcadia》, there is a lot of place that no-one has been explored. Players will search for those place and defeat the boss monster

inside so that they can advance to next stage.

The weapon used comes in variety. One hand sword, dual/pair sword, great sword, Tachi, axe, spear and etc. exist. There seems to be weapons that are not yet revealed.. However, there is no such thing as magic in this world. That is why players hold weapons and defeat the monsters with their own skills. The game seems not much interesting when hearing it, However, 【Skill】 and [Title] exist instead of magic. Its a turning point of the game for those players who can use these well.

Though you can choose a weapon at the beginning, you must be careful because it is not possible to change for a while. The Tachi that I used in beta-version, even if the attack was properly hit, it does not give that much damage to the opponent . Even if you execute the skill, it goes rampage and would not be able to hit and exceedingly difficult to use.

Perhaps, it would have a decent settings in this official version.

When I choose the Tachi in 《Blade Online》 start menu, the words 「Welcome! to Blade Online」 floated and I'm wrapped with a dazzling light.

Chapter 2

I was in a big room which was covered by a pure white wall the moment I opened my eyes. I saw a player standing and talking to another person about something. The person's presence and heat feels so realistic. Because small details like presence and heat are absent in the games that uses 《Dream》. I reconfirm that 《Blade Online》 is amazing as I expected.

iHow should I put it, there is a lot people who choose such things as great sword or spear as weapon, why there isn't anyone who choose Tachi... The beta-version players created a walkthrough wiki, although Tachi is written as a failure weapon, is it really a failure weapon?... Certainly, though the offensive attack, reach and attack speed are all incomplete.... Besides, having a fine treatment is difficult. But, is there no one dared to use Tachi intentionally?. Surely, besides me, I guess there is a considerably few people who use it.

around 10 minutes since they bring us here in this room, one player screamed. Others pays attention to it.

「I can't Logout!」

Such nonsense, I opened the status and look for the logout button display at the upper right of the screen. ...There's nothing. Are you kidding.

The surrounding player started to make noise. even if I say that it was a long-awaited game, the management suddenly fell. I mean,

until when we have to be inside the white room?. Can we leave or not is such a thought that crossed my mind.

At that moment, a squared screen like thing appeared on the wall of the room. A white and black line moving around like a sandstorm in the TV screen. Players become silent and pays attention, a deep male voice began to heard from there.

『Everyone, approximately 30,000 players. Hereafter, hear what am I going to say well, Its not the mistake of the management that there is no logout button, it is because its such a specification from the start.』

The surrounding players once again begun to speak.

What do you mean? A non-existing logout button is a specification? in other words, the logout button was erased? I don't understand such thing.

I want to quickly joined up Garon in a place but, there is a considerable a lot of people in this room. It would be hard to locate him from here.

『And interference from the real world is almost impossible. In this world, all of you're thoughts would be 《Accelerated》 I'll omit the full details but, in this world's one year is a full one second in real life. I don't think that you can leave without conquering the game.』

Ignoring the angry voice and scream that came from the players, the voice from the screen continues.

『And in this world's death is linked reality's death. The life of all the players...The moment when the HP bar disappeared, it would send you a special electromagnetic waves in your brain in real world, death due to shock.』

The mood lost its vigor. until now, there are guys who makes noises for fun also got a cramp on their faces while staring at the screen. It does not matter because I'm in a death like life in reality and it would not change that much, and such thought did not come to mind.

Isn't this bad? Its a lie, right?

『 And lastly, there is one thing I should tell .』

Until now, The Inhuman and unconcerned voice of the man when talking, there is a slightly enjoyment like feeling mixed with it.

『The setting of this game's monster, level and etc. is the same as beta-version. Item, weapon and other's setting are not modified . Thought there was a thing were the impression of difficulty of using the Tachi was sent by a beta-player, I'm afraid to say that the Tachi setting is not changed.』

Eh, Wa-wait. Then, the unreasonably difficult to use Tachi would

be the same in official version as the unreasonable difficult to use Tachi?. Is that so?.

The surrounding players simultaneously look at my appearance. Sympathy and despise contain in their gazes. Well, Eh, even if you look at me with those eyes...

『Aa. PK (Player Killing) is now allowed with the modification of beta-version. If you die in this world, you die in reality. It is better to choose your human companion properly.』

PK. The player who attack even if its companion for the sake of Item and Experience Point, an Act of killing. Are you serious?

『Well then, All of you would be transferred to the plaza of the beginning town. I recommend to immediately act after the transfer. Popping monster were not infinite, if you want to earn experience point, you must act quickly. Well then, fully enjoy yourself.』

As the screen disappears. I was once again wrapped in a dazzling light.

Name: Akatsuki

Level 1

Weapon: Tachi 『Rusted Katana』

Skill:

Title:

Strength: 10

Agility: 10

Endurance: 10

Vitality: 10

Dexterity: 10

Chapter 3

The reason why I choose Tachi is because I practiced kendo before. Tachi's shape and length is the same as the bamboo and wooden sword that is used for kendo, I thought because I'm familiar with swinging it, I could easily be accustomed when I play. However, I never thought that because of that choice I've become like this.

《Safety Town》is the name of the town that the player would first visit in the world of 《Arcadia》. The same as its name, A safe town that monster does not approach. Because a new town can be created if you conquered an undiscovered area , it will probably become useless in the middle stages but at the beginning stages, Its an important base town of the players.

The actions of the players that was transferred in 《Safety town》 are divided into three. Someone who immediately started to move to a discovered area in solo, someone who recruits and creating a party and someone who's not doing anything believing that they will be rescued. I do not believe that rescue will come and I think that acting solo is dangerous so I decided to joined up with my fellow beta players. However.....

「Garon, Why!? Didn't you say that we will create a party together!？」

The big bulletin board was made for the sake of 《Blade Online》 players to use, though there is three companions joining with Garon, I was refused by the companions and thought that I would not be able to make it. The reason is because of Tachi. Although,

Tachi is a failure, isn't having a lot of companions is better. One of Garon's companion disapproved in a disdainful way, 「I can't trust you」 and etc. Garon and this companion are acquaintance in other games and it seems that they meet in the real life many times. That is to avoid their backs from danger from me who they only got acquainted in beta-version. Well, I understand that being cautious of an area where monsters are and being able to PK when they leave the town but as for this, I believe that its harsh.

Garon's height exceeds 180cm and as for my 175cm figure, it was despised. With a burning like red hair and carries a great sword on his back coupled with a terrifying intensity. Garon is apologetic but said in compelling voice while lowering his head 「I'm sorry」 and leave somewhere with his companions.

...Damn.... Why. Even though you promised.

By the way, face, hair, appearance and other trivial places can be change in this game but only the skeletal structure can't be changed. If the skeletal structure was raised high or lowers, the center of gravity would be out of sync and it became impossible to move well, I hardly tamper my face and hair. Well, those kind of things are now trivial.

「Hey, that guy is a Tachi user.」

「It seems that he will be a burden if we make him a companion.」

all the players turned their eyes and saw my appearance and make fun of it, this reactions is.... I had a bad feeling about this...

That bad feeling suddenly became realized. Its impossible to became a companion of anyone. They avoided partying me just because of Tachi. I can't believe this. Even if the management said such thing, this is too extreme. I understand being cautious in this crisis but, you don't have to go that far to say that. Isn't it having a lot of companion is better...

After that, I tried my best to make companions for around an hour in town but, I've been refused by everyone. How about searching for other Tachi user who moves in solo and successfully make companions or maybe they're in an inn but, they didn't exist.

Honestly, this is seriously bad. Its worst, I'm late to move in solo and I don't have companions. I'm really not in mood to shut myself in an inn.

When I look for companions in the bulletin board...『Another Tachi user [www](#)』 and 『Akatsuki is really desperate [www](#)』 was written. The name in bulletin board is able to make your name into anonymous, those guys who writes in my recruitment were all anonymous. This is awful. I can't make a companion at all.

(TLN: www is Japanese version of Hahaha)

I'm in a daze however, with just that as a reason, I'm not going to stop. I have no choice but put into use my beta-version knowledge to conquer an area. In any case, a good place for leveling is already full of players. Sigh.

Monsters in the first conquered area 《Wild Forest》 are not strong. However, its the end if you got surrounded so going in level 1 is dangerous. Still, I can't helped it. This Tachi user Akatsuki will conquer it.

I went to a shop which NPC manages and gathered recovery medicines, and I left for 《Wild Forest》. Is that how its supposed to be but halfway, I met my little sister.

「Shiori?」

「Nii-san」

It seems my little sister's appearance is hardly change so I found it out in one glance. A flowing like black hair and snow like white skin, a gentle high nose. Its like an unbelievable beautiful woman even though we have the same parents. As I thought, a game lover like you is also playing this.

around my little sister are at least the same high school student of two girls and two guys. They might be in a party. Of course there is no Tachi user among them. My little sister is a one-hand sword user.

「Nii-san? Isn't that the guy who is a Tachi user that is being ridiculed in the bulletin board.」

Though a man talked to my little sister in perplexity, My little

sister glared at me and ignored it. I reflexively step back once because of that intensity.

「You're already a good-for-nothing in reality and it seems even here, you're still a good-for-nothing. Isn't it natural that no one wants to party with you. We also don't have any intention make you join our party. Please don't talk to me」

The surrounding companion says 「Is that okay?」but my little sister didn't say anything, she turn her back to me and walked. The companion compares me with my little sister and after that followed her while lowering their heads.

I could not do anything but just stand dumbfounded for a while. It is still good to be deserted by other players. But I hardly endured being deserted by my blood related little sister. Even though you hate me because I did nothing but coveted money in grandmother's house but, It might now an emergency concerning a matter of life or death But even so, I was deserted. Both anger and sadness rises.

「...I should go」

I'll temporarily postponing the matters with my little sister. Now is important for a way of conquering.

The monsters that appears in 《Wild Forrest》 in the beta-version are only four kinds, Slime, Giant Caterpillar(Crawler), Green Slime

and Floating Eye. The boss exist in the deepest part is Hungry Tree.

Excluding the boss, it is somehow possible to defeat the monsters that appears in level 1. But monster does not necessary moves in one. Its considerable severe if you got surrounded.

Though there is not enough tension when inside the game, I focused my mind when I saw the entrance of 《Wild Forrest》. Though it seems that there is a lot of players nearby. Basically, you need to use your own power to advance. Being in a party is different.

「nn?」

The space just before the entrance slightly cracked. Is this the thing that often happens where the background of the game becomes strange? It seems to be not yet complete even though this is a state-of-the-art VRMMO. I wonder what's going to happen if I touch this?, I put a finger in a cracked part and with a 〈tsun〉, the part where I poked breaks entirely and a big hole appeared.

「What the heck, is this?」

The moment that I tried to look inside the hole, I was pulled by something and was dragged inside. The hole seems to be connected somewhere and I was falling with my head first.

Hey, Management. Fix your bug properly.....

Chapter 4

I somehow stand up while enduring the pain of being slammed to the ground. After that I remember the damage of falling in high places...but I confirmed that there is no change in HP bar. I don't know if that is because of the bug but it seems that there is no falling damage. If that's the case, I wanted you to make it not to have pain when falling.

Still, what is this place?. Though I understand the thing that huge trees grows in the forest but there should not have a place like this in 《Wild Forest》. And also, the atmosphere is different. I can't explain it well but, there is an unpleasant atmosphere that flows here. It seems that there is something lurking or its just me being insecure.

I opened the Status screen to confirm my current location. Status screen can only be displayed by using your mind to call it to appear. Rather than displaying it in your view, it may correct to say that its appearing in your mind. The Status screen can't be seen by another person other than you.

There is a function in the Status screen that indicates your present location. I frowned when I confirmed the location where I am.

Current Location...《Blood Forest》.

Where is this. There is no such dungeon when I played the beta-version. So that means that its monsters are higher level than

《Wild Forest》. This might be bad. If you got careless, it is possible that monster's attacks are one hit instant death.

I tried to look around for a while but I don't know if there is something in distant because of the trees. I don't know when the light of the sun that leaks in the gap of the leafs will lost but, I have no choice but to move.

Because this world's time is the same as Reality, there is Morning, Lunch and evening also season and weather changed. It seems that its now afternoon. The view will become worst if the night comes and there is also a possibility of nocturnal monsters.

It can't be helped. I'm going to explore.

〈bakibakibaki〉, The sound of breaking the branch continues and beast's low groan resounds. After that, something in the ground moves with a 〈shakashaka〉 was heard, The ground trembles.

I hid behind the moss covered green tree and saw monsters fighting. My breath became rough and the sound of the heart is noisy because of the tension.

A huge bear like thing has been discovered sleeping when I search for a while. It lays on the ground in the shape of 大 and snoring, certainly its a monster. And also its level is high.

Monster's name is displayed above the HP bar. However, in case

when monster's level is considerably higher than me, it displayed as 『???』. Above the HP bar of the bear is in question mark. In other words, its level is considerably higher than me.

That fact that its sleeping now is that it's a nocturnal monster. It would not wake up unless provoked. Let the sleeping dogs lie, I'll ignore this.

And when I thought so, suddenly there is a purple liquid sticking in the abdomen of the bear. I heard a sound that something melts and the bear's HP is slightly decreasing.

The bear woke up.

slowly standing up and opened its blood shoot eyes wide, It opens its large mouth and roars. It was so powerful that I was not able stand. I immediately kneeled and closed my ears. Perhaps this bear have a skill in the Intimidating system. Intimidating system makes the movement slow of the person whose level is lower than me.

Its more dangerous than I expected. I can't escape and can only be killed if I got found.

After finishing its roar, It glared to someone who disturbed his sleep. It's line of sight was in the Giant Scorpion. Its smaller than the bear but considering common sense, its quite big. Its whole body is covered in red shell. Its seems quite hard.

Three scorpion surrounding the bear with their six feet. It seems

its level is high because of its name is not being displayed.. It appears that this forest's monster's level are more than higher than mine. Hey, Management. Help me fast.

The bear and scorpions are glaring each other. The first who moved is the scorpions. It simultaneously charged together to the bear, it strikes with those pincers. The bear's HP decreased around 10 percent. The bear swung its claw downward towards to the scorpion on its front. A thick sound echoes like a two irons striking each other. It seems that scorpion's shell was hard as expected. Still, The Scorpion's HP was shaved about 30% by receiving that attack. The offensive power of the bear is something to be scared of.

The bear's attack does not stop. Striking the other two with its claws. The bear swung its arms with a <bunbun>, striking the scorpions. Its somehow surreal. The scorpion is also not losing. The point of the tail where there is a lump was stab into the bear. At the same time that the bear's HP decreased it changes in violet. The poisoned status. Is it poisoned as I expected?

(TLN: Bunbun is Buzz-buzz, Buzzing)

The HP decreased little by little when in poisoned status. Its possible to erase it you drink the antidote though you can be free from poisoned status by letting it pass for a while, being in a poisoned status while fighting a strong enemy is awful.

10 minutes after the fight of the bear and scorpions. Though the HP of the three scorpion was shave in half, the bear's HP was decreased below half until it was orange. With a thing of bear's poisoned status, the scorpions are in overwhelming advantage.

The meat was torn off by the attack of pincers in 3 different directions, The bear's HP is finally rushing to red zone. I, who was secretly peeking from the shadow of the tree was convinced of the victory of Scorpions.

At that moment.

Guoooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!

After the roar, The bear's whole body begun to shine in in bright red. Eyes sparks in red, the fang's lengthen and the mouth became big. What on earth is this. I have not seen this phenomenon like this.

The bear strike one scorpion. The sturdy shell got smashed into pieces, Scorpion's HP bar is completely shaved. Though the remaining scorpions stab its tail to make the bear in poisoned status, its shell was crushed and died afterwards. The scorpions disappears and became light. The bear raised a roar of victory.

There is no way that I can win such a monster.... Even though its endurance is almost 0, I don't want to approach that guy who pulverized those Scorpion's shell. The poisoned status has been healed, its HP will recover little by little for a while. Before that, lets run away.

To stand up, I held the tree where I was hidden until now. Thereupon, a moist feeling of the tree was transmitted.

「Aa」

Somehow, it seems the tree is rotten and became fragile. Its collapsing as it is. And after that, The bear-san whose whole body is in bright red is. The collapsing tree is hitting the bear.

This is bad, I'll get noticed! A bear scream was heard somewhere when I was hurrying to escape. When I turned around timidly, the bear became a grain of light and goes up to the sky.

E?

Level up sound was heard in my mind. Rather than that, I heard it in great succession.

〈pon〉, You became level 2. 〈pon〉, You became level 3 〈pon〉, You became level 4 〈pon〉, You became level 5 〈pon〉, You became level 6.

The electronic sound that I heard in beta version was in succession and I was jumping in delight.

Afterwards, The sound stopped after I became level 26. Next is the words appears in my mind.

Skill 【Step】, 【Jump】→ 【Second Jump】 It changed into 【Spy】, 【Mikiri】, 【Perception】, 【Parry】, 【Forth Slash】, 【Clear Stab】, 【Help Splitter】, 【Drawing Slash】, 【Samurai's Spirit】 were learnt.

Title [Person who uses trap] [[Gekokujou](#)] [Person who spies] [???] were acquired.

(TLN: Gekokujou means A Junior dominating senior.)

I don't understand it anymore.

Chapter 5

It seems that the Bear's HP was really shaved down to the limit. It just died by colliding to a collapsing tree. There is a reason for my terrifying momentum of leveling up. In case when two monsters fight, the victor will be able to get the experience point and few items of the monster that he defeated. Even though no matter how distant our level is, I'm sure that with just the bear alone, I will not leveled up that much. It seems that part of the scorpions were also included.

I organized the event a while ago in the cave I found after that.

Apparently, this cave is a resting site for the players. Inside the cave is warm and spring water accumulate. Various types of fruits grows in the tree near the entrance, above all is that monster don't come at all. The map that can be seen in the status is that this cave can't be invade by monsters, It is displayed as blue that indicates safety.

「Fuu」

I lean in the wall of the cave and take a breather.

There's a lot of thing happened that I might go crazy. However, its necessary to be calm at time like this.

For the time being, there should be items in the Item Box since I defeated the Bear. First of all, I'll try to sort it out.

Inside the Item Box are the large amount of recovery medicine, antidote and other things that I bought in the 《Safety Town》, among them are Items that I had never seen before.

Personal Items: Recovery Potion x 10, Antidote x 5, Stamina Drink x 5, Red Bear's pelt x 2, Red Bear's Claw, Red Bear's Raw Meat x 4, Tachi 『 Blood Stained Sakura』 Red Iron Scorpion's Hard Shell x 7, Red Iron Scorpion's Pincers x 3, Red Iron Scorpion's Poisoned Tail, Red Iron Scorpion's Poisoned Meat and Soul's Fragment x 10.

It seems that i have obtained a large amount of monster's parts. this sort of items when brings to a blacksmith who makes weapon and equipment, It can be made a weapon and equipment according to the monsters. Well, since there is no such establishment in an unconquered area yet. Its clearly a garbage for now.

By the way, Although I understood seeing the explanation of the item, That Bear's name is Bloody Bear and the Scorpions seems to be subspecies of Shield Scorpion. Subspecies of what species?.

Monster's parts are simply a garbage for now but the Meat Type Item is different. There is a setting for hunger in this game, you will suffer a penalty in status if you don't regularly eat something and eventually dies of hunger. I, who doesn't have anything to eat beside the fruit that I found a while ago, Meat is an important item that saves life. However, If you eat a poisoned meat. you will be in poisoned status for several seconds.

「oo.....」

And then the Tachi 『Bloodstained Sakura』. There is a very little chances of being able to acquire weapon and swords from monsters, I never thought that I would get it suddenly. My current equipped Tachi is 『Rusted Katana』. Totally unreliable. It can be said that being able to get it is considerably lucky. However, 『Strength』 is needed to use the weapon.

To equip heavy weapon and swing it, physical strength is naturally needed. 『Strength』 is one in the status that shows the physical strength of the Players. As the 『Strength』 increases, Offensive ability also goes up. There is no disadvantage if it trains.

There is other variety other than『Strength』, 『Agility』, 『Endurance』, 『Stamina』 and 『Dexterity』, All goes up naturally if your level raised and can be trained. There is a method to train other than raising a level, Strength and Endurance is to practice swinging the weapon and weight training, Agility and Stamina is to move around and Dexterity is to make weapon and work as blacksmith as it will be able to make it raise. The thing about raising level and these status are the real pleasure of this game .

Though the talked got derailed. For now, there is no lack of weapon for a while. Though I said that, Its probably necessary to increase『 Strength』.

Next is Soul's Fragment. This is when the time which you receive an instant death attack... The item can recover the HP up to 10.

Though I did not obtain it in the beta-version, I guess perhaps its a considerable scarce rare item. Of course, Its disposable.

I grasp the main point of the Items and next is the Skill and Title.

Skills is a special technique that decreased the Stamina Bar below the HP Bar when its used. Quick movement, Attack , Defense and others are possible to do that normal human can't. Some Skill does not consume Stamina but most of the skills uses it. It becomes impossible to use skill if the stamina is used up and have no choice but to wait for it to recover.

Stamina is the same with HP as it increased as you leveled up. Stamina can be increase with the raise of Strength Value.

At the time when the Stamina is used up, it is possible to recover by drinking the Stamina Drink besides for natural recovery. Because of being in a pinch when Stamina is used up, Stamina Drink is one of the indispensable item.

「Well, then... Let me see quickly what skill that I learned.....Oo」

Many of the skill that I acquired are convenient things. 【Samurai's Spirit】 is a skill which lowers some status of the person which level is lower than mine.

Although I can't use it in this forest... There are skills that I have seen for the first time. Is it likely to be able to become a Top Ranker if I leave the forest now?

By the way, I 'm not be able to know the situation of the other players. The words displayed in the bulletin board is error when I looked at it a while ago. Damn, Its probably because of the bug. Managementttt..... If you have such free time to use technology to accelerate the time at least erase this bug.....

Next is Title. When the action of the player meet the requirements of obtaining that title, It is possible to acquired. Just by possessing it would increase the status thus having one does have any disadvantage.

However, the title that acquired this time, I don't even do anything but it satisfied the obtaining requirements? Since I came here due to bug, something weird is not that strange.

[Person who uses traps] can be obtained in case when you defeat the monster without doing anything with just your intellect. Its a title that increased Dexterity. Certainly, I don't use my own hands to defeat the Bloody Bear but.....

[Gekokujou] as the as its name, can be obtained when you defeated a monster or player whose level is higher than yours. Its a convenient title where all the status were raised. It can be said that I was lucky to obtained these Title easily.

[Person who spies] ...As for this obtaining requirements, I don't know since it didn't appear in the beta-version. It increase Agility, and increased the effect of 【Spy】.

Still, for the last. [???]. I don't really know this. There isn't anything written in the explanation, Is it because of the bug?

For now, with this is the sorting of the items acquired due to luckily defeating the Bloody bear but.

What should I do from now on?

Chapter 6

As I fill my mouth with the Red Bear's raw meat, I'm thinking what am I going to do from now on. Outside became pitch black as its already night. I sensed a presence of something big moving around, I guess its better to not leave until it is morning. I'll stay inside the cave today.

Red Bear's raw meat is truly delicious. Though the texture is soft as the raw meat itself, there is a taste of salt and pepper attached to it somehow as it was possible to eat. It would be food poisoning in reality but in this world. such matter is probably safe. The whole body seems to be filled with power whenever I eat a mouthful. Stamina is seen to increase slightly. I'm sure that cooking it by grilling would be delicious I guess, it can't be helped that there is no equipment. Which remind me, there should have such skill like cooking, I'll look for it after I escaped this forest.

「Haa」

Can I be able to leave this forest full of monsters?. Despite being in a life and death just by going outside. Its likely that the current me can't win a Shield Scorpion subspecies needless to say a Bloody Bear. Though 『Bloodstained Sakura』 is somehow powerful, the current me won't be able to use it as it requires a high 『Strength』, I may also not be able to use a skill. Although my level went up, status like 「Strength」 and etc. hardly went up. Its a suicidal act if I go out in my current situation.

Sigh. I'll think about it tomorrow. Thanks for eating the meat that my stomach became full and sleepy. I'll sleep for today.

The next morning, I who appeased the thirst with spring water and ate the bear's meat was doing a practice-swinging using 『Bloodstained Sakura』. Though my hand become painful just by swinging for a little while since its considerably heavy, I keep swinging.

There is a proper reason why I suddenly starts practice-swinging, 『Strength』 and 『Endurance』 can be raised just by swinging a sword, it is so that the proficiency level of Tachi can be raised. Proficiency level is a thing to show how much you mastered a weapon. Although status and proficiency level goes up easily by fighting monsters, Since it seems to be an instant kill when I fight, I can do nothing but steadily train. Let's do this!.

Noon. I take a rest after eating a small amount of bear's meat, I'll start practicing the skills that I obtained this time. Skill also have proficiency level as it increase as one keep using it. Its better to use it more as the skill level goes up, its effectiveness also increased.

I move around in various directions many times over using 【Step】, I take a rest when the Stamina run out to recover. Afterwards, I used 【Second Jump】 Many times again and again. 【Second Jump】 is after you jump once, as if there is a scaffold like thing in the air and once again will be able to jump. It seems to use plenty of Stamina and need to take a rest immediately.

Practicing until stamina is exhausted in one skill and use a different skill after the stamina recovers. I repeat this a number of

times.

「【Forth Slash】!!」

The sword shine in blue at the same time as I execute it with a 4 consecutive slash in the space in front of my eyes. Its power is not that high. Instead it consumed low stamina and can be used many times. even if you say it can be use many times, when used once, skill can't be used again until the next fixed time which makes it intermittent.

It became night in a blink of an eye when training like this. The whole body is sore because of muscular pain. Damn, you don't need a such setting like muscular pain! Its too realistic....

I immediately went to sleep after eating the last bear's meat and drinking spring water.

The next day, I was hesitant to eat the meat of scorpion and fetch some fruits that grows near the cave. There are three type.

「.....」

Only one is decent in the 3 kinds of fruits. Though Fire Fruit can restore your stamina , I became in poisoned status when I ate Borero Fruit, and understand that eating Birere Fruit can make you into a paralyzed status, Though I only want to eat Fire Fruit, it seems that this fruit can only be harvest 3 pieces a day. Just having one would not make my stomach full and I can't escape hunger if I

don't eat Borero Fruit and Birere Fruit.

For now, I will eat Fire Fruit in the morning. since Birere Fruit's paralyzed status would not affect the stamina, Its no problem if I eat it. Borero Fruit's poisoned status prably would continue until the stamina becomes 0. Nevertheless, it will lower my motivation if I don't eat well in the morning and so I decided to eat two Fire Fruit.

I practice-swinging until noon just like yesterday and ate three Birere Fruit. It became impossible to move the whole body because of numbness for a few minutes, Hunger is perfectly solved. After that is the training of skills.

I ate one Fire Fruit and three Borero Fruit at night. The whole body becomes hot and the chest hurts nastily . Fortunately, the poisoned state was substantially restored if I ate Fire Fruit. The hunger has been solved, I'm going to sleep.

After that, despite eating fruits, I keep practice-swinging and practicing skill everyday. The status increased

Chapter 7

I don't know how long passed after that. I'm not sure exactly because of not counting it but, I think at least around 2 months passed.

Although being in a game, My body odor became terrible. Though I washed my body once every few days with a spring water but it has limits. Sigh..... I want to take a bath. I think while starting today's morning training.

I did not go outside to explore yet since that day. There is a fear of getting killed by monsters, and it seems that there is no exit.

It is necessary to clear the area or find the entrance that connects to the next area to leave newly discovered area in this game. The state of the entrance is closed until it founds. The probability of finding another exit than the entrance to come to this area is low. Therefore, its better to wait for players whose come here to train. However, Even though I'm clear of it. I can't stop the feeling of wanting to explore another place recently. The anxiety of someone will not come to help and the hope of possibility of having an exit unites thus the feeling of wanting to go out arose in my mind.

I finally decided to explore outside the day after finishing my training. The proficiency level and skill level greatly went up since then and perhaps, I can now possibly use it properly to some extent even in this forest. Since the proficiency level of Tachi increased, I obtained the Title [Tachi Grade] and [Tachi Second Grade] and also, I can now properly became able to use the 『Bloodstained Sakura』 . I have not yet used Item for recoveries and I'll not eat

Fire Fruit that can recover HP to save some.

「Alright.」

I wiped my body with spring water and decided to go tomorrow morning to search and I shut my eyes to rest. I considerably became accustomed to the rough feeling of the floor.

I wonder what are the other players doing. Certainly they are not annihilated right? Something like being the only one surviving.... Well, that's not going happen. They would never die if they're in a party as long as there is no something big happened.

Are my sister, Garon and that companion still alive? Just by recalling that day when I got deserted makes me furious. I will say some complaint when I returned alive. What should I say?, My consciousness fell into darkness while thinking about such kind of things.

Next Morning.

I bring three kind of fruits near previously in the cave, I put Fire Fruit in the Item Box. I decided to have Birere Fruit as my breakfast. Bringing three Birere Fruits into my stomach and succumbs into Paralyze State as usual. I already become accustomed to both poisoned status and paralyze status. However, only the meat of Shield Scorpion is not yet eaten. Because its somehow scary.

Since the stomach is now full, I'm now going outside the cave to explore. I'll only come back to this cave when something happens since monsters does not come here. I step forward my foot to the outside of the cave after practice swinging 『Bloodstained Sakura』 several times.

I move slowly inside the gloomy forest while using 【Spy】. The leaves are swaying with the wind coupled with gloomy forest is surely eerie. I have not yet come across a monster so far.

There might be a case that this area has a nature type nocturnal monster. Nocturnal monster is sleeping in the morning and noon and even if its awoken, Its movement is slow. However, When the night comes and it wakes up, It will became ferocious.

Players does not much encounter nocturnal monster since they commonly start their conquering in the morning and return before the day goes dark. However, I'm sure that there is some player who fights nocturnal monster because of some request pasted in request board in the middle of the town. I have never fought nocturnal monster in night as I only see the request when I'm in beta-version.

What am i saying is that, Its necessary to return to the cave before it became night, for now.

Around 30 minute passed after I started exploring, I finally discovered a monster. That one is eating the grass that grew on the ground deliciously.

Its whole body is covered in yellow fur and it has two long ears in its head. And a sharp horn extends from its forehead. It seems like a rabbit with horn. Its name can't be seen. Its level must be high.

I've seen this rabbit before somewhere. I'm sure that there is a weak monster called Horn Rabbit. Its very similar to that one. However, Horn Rabbit was smaller and the color of its fur was white. This one is possibly the thing called subspecies.

..... But I don't feel like I'm going to lose to this rabbit. How do i say it, though Horn Rabbit is clearly was a small fry, This one in front of my eyes doesn't looks like that strong. Though the level is apart, it doesn't mean that there is no possibility of winning. Alright, I'll try to defeat it.

The Horn Rabbit was a docile monster and would not attack unless you attacked it. Though this subspecies-like is not necessary the same, it seems like a docile when eating grass.

I prepare Tachi as I slowly approach its back while using 【Spy】. I stood right behind it but there is no sign that it would attack. There is no reaction of other monsters when I examine the surroundings using 【Sense】. Ok, I'm going to do it.

「Haa!」

I attack it once I hold the sword with 【Drawing Slash】. 【Drawing Slash】 is a skill that slash while drawing the sword. Its a quite convenient skill as it can be use continuously unlike other skills.

The rabbit raised a scream as it suddenly got slashed and bend backwards. I do not overlook that chance and executed the 【Forth Slash】. 4 consecutive blue lights connects to the body of the Rabbit , blood sprout from it.

「tsu.」

The rabbit turn around and charged to thrust its horn to me. I knew where the charged of rabbit going to come using 【Mikiri】, jumped to the right using 【Step】. The movement of 【Step】 is quick thanks to the increase of the skill level.

The dodged rabbit stopped its charged while nearly falling forwards. Chance was made when avoiding the attack. It seems that this one is also a subspecies as I expected.

Attack its back using 【Forth Slash】 and dodge the charged with 【Mikiri】. I shaved the rabbit's HP around 20 percent. Its somehow tough. When thinking such thing, the rabbit faced my directed and stopped moving. Is it not going to charge?

The next moment, The body of the rabbit shined in yellow and thrust this way with an amazing power. I confirm the red attack prediction line and it was not a distance that I could dodge with 【Steps】.

「Guu!」

I immediately executes 【Parry】 catching the horn of the Rabbit with the sword in an instant and using the side of the blade killing the impact before it came. I was be able to perfectly dodge the charge. I move next to the tree and saw the rabbit facing towards in my directing charging. The horn stuck to the tree and was not be able to move. Its a chance to attack.

I noticed the pain on both arms as I tried to rush to the rabbit. The HP decreased to around 40% when I checked. What the heck..... The charged is supposed to be perfectly dodged. Though there is a case when you're not able to master the skill and not be able to dodged it well, It was perfect that time. To be able take damage despite that. Isn't it instant death if I was hit directly?

I froze because of fear. Fear of death.

However, I can't stay like this forever. I was able to take the attack itself and I should be to manage the charged if I'm careful.

I ate Fire Fruit from the Item Box and my HP recovers. I almost recover completely. The rabbit struggled as it still stuck into a tree. I can still attack.

I hurriedly charged and slash with 【Forth Slash】. The rabbit is still struggling. Because the recoil of the skill has subsided, I executed 【Forth Slash】 again. The rabbit's HP decreased around 40%. Alright, I can do it!.

I was able to predict the horn thrusting movement of the rabbit when it turn around because of 【Mikiri】.

While practice the skill of 【Second Jump】 inside the cave, words like『This skill can still be strengthened, Do you want to Strengthen?』 appeared. 【Second Jump】 disappears after selecting Yes, and was now be able to use the new 【Quadruple Jump】.

I dodged the thrust of the rabbit using 【Quadruple Jump】, and drive in 【Helm Splitter】 and add the impact of falling to its head that became defenseless. 【Helm Splitter】 is a technique that is used for the opponent with a high defensive power. The opponent can be in confused status if its used well.

The rabbit screamed as it dizzily stumbled. It seems that I used it well. It was able to have a confused status. The HP decreased well as I use 【Forth Slash】 many times. The confused status was removed when only left at lease 20%. I step back in order not to receive the thrust.

I feel like I've seen yellow light.

「Gahaa.....」

I don't understand what happened in an instant. A horn has been stuck in my abdomen when I looked. Are you serious.... There is no way I can dodge such thing when there is no preparation action. The stabbed part is hot. What happened to the HP..... The Hp bar is already entered the red zone and only a little bit was left in it. It ends if I received another hit.

I have to quickly use the recovery medicine. However, The body

did not move. I can't use the Item Box..... Are you kidding..... I'm paralyzed?....

It seems that this rabbit have the power to make the opponent into a paralyzed status. I seems to have underestimated.

I saw the rabbit charging.

My body began to shine suddenly the moment when my HP became 0. 『Are you going to use Soul's Fragment?』 such words appeared in my mind. I completely forgot.... Isn't it I possessed ten resurrection type of item. My HP recovers until barely red after I selected YES.

The rabbit is in front of me. There is no time to recover. Do or die, The side of the head was hit with 【Helm Splitter】. Though it did not become in confused status, the rabbit's movement staggered as it stops. I used 【Step】 hurriedly to take a distance and take a bite of Fire Fruit. Stamina recovered at least half. I recovered completely by eating another one.

The rabbit regains its balance. That guy's body shines in yellow. It seems that there is a preparation action this time. Though I can resurrect 9 times, I don't want to use it that much. I jumped using 【Quadruple Jump】. I kicked the transparent jump in the air. The rabbit goes forwards through the place where am I a while ago and it was stuck into a tree again. The rabbit struggles.

That guy's HP is already below 20%.

I, who came down to the ground, used 【Forth Slash】 in rapid succession and somehow defeated the rabbit.

〈pon〉, an idiotic electric sound is heard continuously and my level went up 4 times in one go. It seems that I did not get a skill or title.

I'm going to return to the cave for today.

Chapter 8

I, who finally arrived in the cave safely, collapsed to the ground and shut my eyes. I was not able to get up because of the fatigue of too intense battle.

Fear of Death. Perhaps, I would not be ever to forget through my life the time when finishing the rabbit. Its already hopeless and I gave up being rescue. Just fighting one monster and already in this state. Can I be able to leave the forest with this difficulty? as I though in the corner of my mind, I sank into the darkness.

I first felt an intense hunger when I wake up. I brought all the fruit outside and ate it but it was not enough. I can't eat Fire Fruit as I set it aside for recovery, what should I do? Thinking for a while, I remembered the Scorpion Meat. Honestly, I don't want to eat the Scorpion's Meat but, it can't be helped in this situation. The Red Iron Scorpion's Poisoned Meat is taken out by selecting it in Item Box.

「Uwaa.....」

What appeared is a violet meat like thing covered in Scorpion's shell. Honestly, Its extremely unappetizing. But It can't be helped since I'm hungry. I can stop if its bad. I take the hard shell with hand and take out the violet meat. It felt like splitting a shrimp when I touched it. I wonder how's the taste..... I tried the meat cautiously.

「Ooo」

Its quite delicious. The texture and taste is just like a shrimp. Saltiness is shows its effect and this is good. After finished eating the first one there is still no sign being in poisoned status. Fortunately, I did not seems to get hit by the poison. I'll try to eat another one. Though I became in poisoned status as expected this time , but the shaved HP is not that much. I'll eat another one that I have. A words appeared in my brain after finishing the third one.

『Skill 【Poison Resistant】 has learned』.

Oo, was there a type of skill for resistance?. Then perhaps, there might be a skill for Paralyzed resistance. It seems like lowers the probability of being poisoned furthermore, the time of being poisoned is reduced by half. I obtained a good skill.

I, who was satisfied filling my stomach, confirmed that the fatigue is not yet recovered, I drank the spring water and decided to sleep. Let's take a break all day long today.

After that, Its already evening when I wake up. The fatigue is greatly recovered when I raised my body. It will be a complete recovery tomorrow at this rate. This kind of fatigue can't be healed by recovery medicine or Stamina Drink. Its necessary to take a rest well.

after relieving my thirst with spring water, I checked the Item that I obtained from the rabbit that I defeated.

Obtained items are, Paralyzing Horned Rabbit's Fur, Paralyzing

Horned Rabbit's Horn, Paralyzing Horned Rabbit's Tail, Paralyzing Horned Rabbit's Paralyzing Meat x 2, Paralyzing Horned Rabbit's Thigh Meat.

Even if I obtained a part item, I'm not happy since I can't do anything about it in this current state. But it was good to obtain a Meat Type item. It's three this time. Apart from the Paralyzing Meat somehow, thigh meat sounds like delicious.

According to the explanation, Thigh Meat of Horn Rabbit Subspecies. Toned meat is very delicious and the person who eats it will have agile movements.

Umu.... Seems delicious. Shall we have a rabbit meat feast today?.

I take out the Paralyzing Meat x 2 and Thigh Meat from the Item Box. The two raw meat is probably edible. I'll try to eat the Paralyzing meat first.

The soft texture of the raw meat comes when I chew a mouthful. It has slightly stinging spicy flavor. It's a different texture from the bear meat. That one is hard but this one is soft. I would also eat the two since it's delicious. Then, I collapsed to the ground and became in paralyzed status.

When I waited for the healing of Paralyzed status, A word 『Skill 【Paralyze Resistance】 was learnt』 appeared in my mind. It seems that there is a paralyze resistance skill as expected. This is a skill that does not consume stamina the same as 【Poisoned Status】.

Because I ate Borero Fruit and Birere Fruit everyday, its certainly not weird to have a resistance

I was relieved of paralyzed status and ate the thigh meat. It was delicious with elasticity different from Paralyzing meat. When I finish eating, a word 『Title 【Fast Runner】 is obtained』 appeared in my mind. Even though I didn't do anything today, its complicated feeling having obtained three skills and title.

Finished eating dinner, the exhausted me decided to check my Status. It should have been greatly raised because of today's fight and everyday's practice. I'm a little excited as I opened the Status.

Strength: 100, Agility: 130, Endurance: 50, Stamina: 90,
Dexterity: 60.

It raised that much compared when I came here. They are the result of training and , today's fight raised 『Strength』, 『Agility』 and 『Endurance』 greatly. 『Endurance』 and 『Dexterity』 is not high because of not training it.

I'm already satisfied for my way of growth and decided to sleep. I lie on the solid ground and look at the ceiling of the cave. Its rough and seems hard.

I decided to train myself the same as before starting tomorrow. Its dangerous to go out. However, I was somehow able to win, I have a hunch that I'll be able to win to that rabbit if I train a little

bit longer I'll challenge the rabbit again after I'm satisfied with my training. Though of course it has to be one-on-one.

Chapter 9

More than around three months have passed since then.

After confirming that the status greatly increased because of everyday training, I'm exploring outside the cave once a week. I can now win the fight without dying with Horn Rabbit Subspecies (just Horn Rabbit since its troublesome). Level also fairly increased, its currently 38. Because the name of Horn Rabbit is started to be displayed, My level is getting close to it.

Since I can't be defeated by Horn Rabbit, I think that its time for the next step. I finally grasp the monsters in this forest after exploring it several times. There might be a monster that I have not yet found because of not going to the inner part but, I guess its not a problem in my present state.

The number of monsters that I confirmed is 10. There are 4 that I don't know the names. I saw Shield Scorpion and Bloody Bear but I have not yet to see its names. Apart from Bloody Bear, I want to see soon If I can now possibly fight Shield Scorpion. Since I obtained **【Poison Resistance】**, There is a low possibility of being harmed by poison. Above all, Level did not raise that much anymore with the Horn Rabbit. There is also Soul's Fragments, I guess some risk is okay.

By merely coming here, I heard myself yelling in my mind " Stop!, Its dangerous!". However, I judged that I would not be able to came out of this forest even if I trained minutely. I'll immediately escape if my HP is shaved more than half in one hit.

I searched for Shield Scorpion after checking the Fire Fruit that I saved little by little.

「Uwaaaaaa!」

I should have raised my level steadily!, I thought while just barely evading the charge of Shield Scorpion.

I identified its location and used 【Quadruple Jump】 to move above so that I won't be noticed, hit it with the impact of falling plus 【Helm Splitter】 which is good at that time, but I wasn't able to hardly give it damage. It seems that its harder than I expected. I tried to escape after that but, this scorpion's legs is unreasonably fast. I'll be overtake if I tried to run away and I can't even return to the cave.

There's another skill besides 【Helm Splitter】 that seems to be able to give damage to this one. It is 【Clear Stab】. 【Clear Stab】 is a skill that would strike the gap of the armor with a blade and gave a direct damage. It might possibly work on that scorpion's shell.

However, It needs to be pretty close to do it. I'm likely to be attacked by that pincers and the tail if I get closed, Its impossible because I scarily feel like being killed.

「oouu!？」

The scorpion thrust again. I jump sideways with 【Step】 but I was

not be able to perfectly evade it and it hit my shoulder a little. My HP was shaved by 20 percent with that attack. It might be because of being distant level in the time of Horn Rabbit.

〈Kishaaa!〉 The scorpion let out a scream, and something clashing sound was heard. The appearance of the scorpion that I saw crashed in a tree and it became in confused status. It seems that there is a lot of monster in this forest that would destroy themselves by crashing into a tree.

At any rate, Its a chance. I hurriedly rush over and stab the gap of the armor with a sword with **【Clear Stab】**. Then, The HP decreased a little. It state received little damage by piercing the sword in its body. I kept piercing it with the 『Bloodstained Sakura』 until the confusion is removed.

The confusion of the scorpion is removed. I evade the attack and use **【Step】** to go its back.

After that, till it almost become night, I keep fighting the scorpion. It seems that the offensive power of the scorpion is not that high as I expected and there some dangerous part but I was somehow able to defeat it. Because of the scorpion hitting the tree every time and becoming in confused status and with that chance, I attack it with **【Clear Stab】**. I confirmed that if I continue this, I'll be able to win splendidly easy.

I checked that the level raised 3 in one go, I believe that I'll be able to see its name soon after defeating it several times.

I don't know how long passed after I come here,. It might be more than a year or maybe less than that. Players have not yet reached this place even now. Probably, this place might be a hidden area. No matter how high the monster's level, in this forest, the number 1 power is the Bloody Bear which is around level 50. My current level is 54. if its a normal capture, Its not strange if other players arrived already. That is why I foretell that this might be a very hard to discover place or a hidden area. If that is the case, there is only one way to get out of here. The master of this area, in other words. Defeating the boss monster. A warp gate will appear and would be able to warp to the town after defeating the boss. I'll go to the town using it. There is a danger of using warp gate due to the bug when I came here but its worth a try.

「【Forth Slash】!!」

I slip to the bosom of the Bloody Bear to avoid its large swing and with four consecutive cut in its leg. The Bloody Bear lose its balance because of the cut in its leg and collapsed to the ground. I used step to not get smashed by the giant body and aim on its head which is close to the ground due to collapsing.

There is a part that is called Vital Point in this game, it is possible to die in a single blow if the attack is perfectly hit. The vital points are the heart and head, the crown of the head and nape are also the vital points even in reality. This also applies to monster not only to the players.

I jumped high with the 【Quadruple Jump】 and stab the crown of the head with the impact of falling.

Guoooooooooooooooo!!!!!!

The Bloody Bear raised a death scream and disappears. It difficult to instant death even if you attacked the vital points, but it is alright if you can stab it well in that place.

I can now safely defeat even the so much powerful Bloody Bear. My level no longer instantly raised by defeating Bloody Bear. It become impossible to raised the level unless defeating 3 of it.

The boss may be easily defeated in this manner. I'll go defeat it after leveling up once more.

My level went up and I got cocky that time. I have completely forgotten the thing that all the people who played a game knows.

Chapter 10

「Tsk.」

I clicked my tongue as I see the swarm of Huge Bees chasing behind me. I was careless. I never thought that this monster's nest is nearby.

Killer Bee is a monster of Huge Bees. I was able to see its name by the time I passed level 40 and It seems that its not that strong. Because it always acts alone, I have not thought that it would call its comrades that was near the nest. I would be able to take care if its one or two but the bees behind me is easily exceeds 30. Its impossible to win.

I have not yet been caught up by somehow making full use of Agility, I'm currently running in the exact opposite direction of the cave. I'm in a state where I don't know where I'm going. No, the meaning is different.

I avoid the tree approaching before my eyes and earnestly run forward.

I ran out of breath. This is dangerous. Stamina would not last anymore. My running speed is also getting slower, its a matter of time before they caught up.

What should I do? Shall I prepare to fight to death?.

I confirmed when I looked back behind is a Killer Bee with an orange body and like a big hornet is approaching. A grating buzz and chinking mouth sound is approaching.

When I decided to fight and draw the『Bloodstained Sakura』 in my back, I noticed that the scene in front of my eyes is different from before. Not a soil but a stone pavement in the ground is verified a few meters away. Perhaps, It might be the place where there is a boss monster. Its better to fight the boss than certainly waste a piece of Soul's Fragment fighting Killer Bee. I stopped drawing Tachi and run towards the Stone Pavement while mustering my remaining strength.

Its on the mark. The Killer Bees does not approach the part of Stone Pavement and somewhere, a frustrating like buzz was heard.

Well then, Shall I defeat the boss and escape this place?.

I go ahead and a shrine like thing made of stone came into my sight. There is a stone gate ahead and from there is covered in darkness and can't be seen. There is a vine entwined in the wall and It shows so much mood.

I go into the Shrine through the gate. I felt the atmosphere suddenly changed once I enter. The atmosphere became tense and making my skin sting.

〈doshin〉(thud), something falling sound is heard in my back. The gate is closed when I turn around. It seems like my escape route disappears. Bracing myself, I draw 『Bloodstained Sakura』 and gaze

to the space in front of me.

It suddenly came.

A breaking eardrum like volume of roar shakes the Shrine. My body froze. A blue flame appears and it changed into a shape of something huge. Its a Bear. A Huge Bear covered in blue fur. A size and intensity that can't be compared to Bloody Bear. I was completely overwhelmed by the boss. My legs trembled and power does not come into my hand that has 『Bloodstained Sakura』.

Aa.....

Why I forgotten that very simple thing.

Isn't it the boss' level setting can only be won when a bunch of player form a group. It is given that to fight this guy in front of me is to assemble players whose level is the same as mine. Isn't it there is no way to win by Solo.

The Gigantic Bear roars once again and its eyes glares at me. “Did you come Alone?”, is what it seems to sneer.

「Hi, uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!!!」

The bear is approaching slowly. I can only do nothing but running around while screaming. The Soul's fragment is not yet used since then. However, I feel like I won't be able to defeat this guy even if I revived nine times.

It brandish its sharp claw that sprout in this long hand and its going down towards me. that alone is a terrifying power. Still by easily receiving that much, it does not mean that I gave up. I look at the attack prediction line with 【Mikiri】 and evade with 【Step】. The Bear's hand strike against the wall of the Shrine and it greatly shake. I'll immediately die if I completely receive that.

My teeth is making a sound by trembling and chattering just now. Its no doubt that I might wet myself if its reality.

The Bear glared at me. With that alone, I fall into a feeling that was like a blade is thrusting into my neck.

I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't
want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to
die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I
don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't
want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to
die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I
don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't
want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to
die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I
don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't want to die; I don't
want to die;

Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

I jumped using **【Quadruple Jump】** and aim for the head of the bear. I have no choice but to aim for vital points to instant death to

win. However, 【Quadruple Jump】 does not even reach the head. I change the target and aim the heart.

I swing a thrust towards the heart while screaming. However, I was sent flying by the bear's hand before I hit it. I sense that something is coming at the back of my body. I crashed into the wall of the shrine. Severe pain strikes my back. My consciousness is becoming dim. There is only just several millimeters left when I checked my HP.

Damn.... I don't want to die. Though I'm going to take out the recovery medicine from the Item Box, my sight is becoming blurry and I don't know which is which. Even if I take it out, I need take it by hand and carry it to my mouth. Since I don't have strength to move my hand, either way is impossible....

Am I going to die?

In a place like this? Alone? Without doing anything?

I don't want it. I don't want to die.

There is still something I want to do.

I want to apologize to the people who brought up a useless human being like me. I'll properly study for university after going home in real world, I'll find a Job and earn money properly. I want to buy something for my grandmother with that money. As for the cold Shiori, I'm sure she'll return like before if I become diligent.

I'd like to play a game like in the past with her and laugh together.

I saw the bear raising its arm.

I don't want it. I don't want to die.

I'm going to return to the real world.

---Title [???'s activation requirement was met.

---Title [Red Crest] has been activated.

--- Rare skill 【Reverberation】 was learned.

--- Skill 【Quadruple Jump】 was changed.

---Rare Skill 【Sky Walk】 was learned.

Chapter 11

My body is so hot and seems like burning. Whatever happens, I opened my eyes and saw the Bear about to swing its arm downwards. I'll get smashed by the Bear just like that——Eh? I'm sure that the Bear is swinging its arm but, its movement is so slow!. It feels like it projects a slow playback of an one scene in a movie. After I noticed it, I remember the discomfort in my own body. Its not painful. Just a while ago, my body that was in pain completely disappears. Is it because of the change? A thing like a Red Crest appeared in my body. This looks familiar. That's right, Its the Bloody Bear.

When the Bloody Bear's HP is shaved up to red zone, a [Red Crest](#) would appear in its whole body and increased its power. Offensive , Speed and Defense power would remarkably increase. My body has that thing which resemble it well now. What the hell is this thing?

(TLN: So Red Crest skill is something that would cover your would body in Red. Idk why the author used Crest maybe because Crest can be mean as Coat of Arms or something.)

I feel like that there is something suddenly appeared in my brain a while ago. I don't know what the heck was that, but I understand that its telling me " what should I do?". Though I can't explain it well, something appeared in my mind on what should I do to defeat this bear. I'll get killed immediately if this go on. If that's the case, Its not bad to relay the thing that my hunch says.

The moment I thought so, the Bears movement return as before. The swing of the arm makes a sounds as it approached. I hurriedly

stand up and jumped sideways using 【Step】. My body is light.... And power seems to be overflowing. This condition is so comfortable.

〈Gururu〉, The Bear growls when it thought that the prey its going to kill is escaping, its body is slowly approaching towards here. This guy's movement is pretty slow as I expected. Nevertheless, its very dangerous to attack slipping into its bosom .

If that's the case!

「【Reverberation】」

I muttered the words that appeared inside my mind and thrust to the bear as it is. I'll be naturally be torn up like a paper with its claw if I do such thing. I completely receive the attack of the Bear and “Disappears”. I go around on its back while the Bear is still bewildered.

After all, I have no choice but to aim for the vital points to defeat this Bear. It is impossible to cut off its neck and the heart is in front which are the vital points . If so, its better stab the nape in its back with the sword.

「【Sky Walk】」

I jumped once and kick the invisible floor in the air and aim for the nape of the Bear. Though the 【Quadruple Jump】 cant reach this place, it is possible with this. I somehow understand its

effects. This is a skill that can keep you jumping as long as the stamina lasts. I saw the stamina decreasing in terrifying momentum. It might probably no room to use another skill. However, Its sufficient. Its sufficient just by stabbing the vital points.

[illegible]

I jumped slightly above the nape and fall downward as it is with the edge if of 『Bloodstained Sakura』. With the impact of falling and power of stabbing. it will probably able to instant death.

The Bear noticed my yell but it is already too late. The edge pierce through the solid fur with a stab in its nape.

Guooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!.

The bear raised a scream. However, It didn't die. The HP is shave by half in a single hit, instant death didn't happen. The HP decreases little by little as the sword is stuck.

[illegible]

I pushed the 『Bloodstained Sakura』 inside as it is. The blood overflow from the wound as the sword sink thoroughly into the meat. The HP decreasing speed is accelerated. However, It will take time.

The Bear stretches its arm and cut my back with its claws who is

in its nape. Though I'll die if HP becomes 0, I still have Soul's Fragment. I, who revives immediately, pushes the sword once more. The sword is deepening slowly because of the meat being considerably hard. Even so, the HP decreasing speed is accelerating as pushed it more.

The bear cuts my back. I died and revives again.

I still want to live. I want to go out of here. I want to go back to the real world. There is still a lot of thing I want to do. That is why.

That is why die quickly. Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ;
Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ;
Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ;
Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die; Die ; Die;

Please quickly die!

The sword is pushed and pushed and pushed and pushed. My back is cut and died then revive died then revive died then revive died then revive died then revive died then revive !.

The Bear's HP finally became zero. I already died eight times. Even so, I won. I survived and won against this bear! Yessssssssssssssss!!.

The bear is screaming as it fall backwards. E..... I can't avoid the

sword that is hanged in the nape and got crushed by the Bear just like that and.

I died again.

- You've became level 60.
- Skill 【Mikiri Revised】 was learned.
- Skill 【Vacuum Slash】 was learned.
- Skill 【Distance Slash】 was learned.
- Skill 【Overlay Slash】 was learned.
- Title [Good Luck] was obtained.
- Are you going to use Soul's Fragment? Yes/No

Chapter 12

A dark room where it is illuminated by a large quantity of floating screen. The screen projects the player, monster and the state of the town area.

There is a chair and desk in front of the screen and several tens of people is hitting the keyboard clattering with their hands while looking at the screen.

One of the screen projects Akatsuki being squashed by the Bear. <kukuku>, The man who was looking at it makes a childlike face and let out a smile. There is no sign of hitting the keyboard with his hands. The man have an appearance of around first half of thirties.

「Hoy, Urabe」

The woman sitting next to him frown while calling the man who is looking at the screen. Urabe faced the woman troublesomely.

「Don't just look at the screen and properly work」

「I know. I'm just looking now because I have nothing to do. How about you Asakura, work properly」

Urabe said it like in displeasure and take a peek again in the screen. The woman called Asakura grab the big arm of Urabe as she got mad at his behavior. And forcefully pull as it is towards

her. Urabe said 「What is it」 as he shake off the hands of Asakura.

「Work properly. Think about the worst. Do you understand? Carelessly speak ill of Tachi in that place and drag the player into a hidden area, what do you want to do? Not only you're in charge of here, you're about to throw out a restricted boss monster before.」

What is this one saying? is what shown in Urabe's face and later greatly nods as he understand something. Then, he makes a broadly grinning and grim face in the shape of a smile. And Asakura who saw it grimaced.

「Mixing a little entertainment in this boring job would not have punishment? I for long time ago like a novel about an unparalleled protagonist but being left out by everyone and the so-called weak weapon is actually powerful genre. I read the same type of novel and also wrote one. That is why I speak ill about Tachi among the weapons. Isn't that person is also looking at that place? Isn't it okay even if I said something that was not in the script?. 」

「I don't understand it. Its absurd..... You're not even a kid..... If so, as what was written in walkthrough WIKI for Tachi being a failure weapon, isn't it good that it is posted in the bulletin board for players that Tachi is so weak.Most of the player is confused and believe it but there should have a few people feel something malaise. No matter what you say. you have done a good and bad thing.」

「You really don't understand. There is no immediate effects, but what I want to see is a situation where an ostracized protagonist and can't do anything but to move Solo returned and triumph over

everyone!. Other Tachi users are already dead, Shut in, being in a party that they expected but, this guy is currently going forward to what situation that I wished for. That is why don't interfere since I'm the one taking responsibility if something happens, Vice Admin Asakura Ayaka-san.」

「Just for that reason the player called Akatsuki..... For the time being, please don't destroy the game balance too much. Administrator Urabe Kensei-san」

After Asakura holding her head like enduring a headache, she once again look at the screen and started to hit the keyboard.

「Yeah,yeah」

Urabe irresponsibly return a reply and resume looking at the screen. Within the square screen is the moving Akatsuki passing through the thing that is like a gate that shines in emerald green and disappears from 《Bloody Forest》.

「Hee.....The destination is there?. 」

Urabe's face once again let out a smiling appearance.

Chapter 13

【Bond】 Blurred on Chat Thread 1012 【We(males)】

1: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 23553

This chat thread is blurred on. Again it will be removed.

334: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 83381

It stood there for already more than 1 year. It became something not worrying about.

335: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 54328

>>334

Rather, it is in a level it would live there for lifetime.

336: This adventurer is amazing! ID:78903

>>334

It seems that the name engraved in the graveyard exceeds 10,000. A lot died.

337: This adventurer is amazing! ID:54328

>>336

I, The one who stays in the town is the winner www

338: This adventurer is amazing! ID:95320

Though a year have passed, time didn't passed that much in reality.

339: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 43002

I mean, what does the Shut-it group do everyday? its terrible to become NEET even inside the game ww

340: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 54328

>>339

Hint Generating Power

341: This adventurer is amazing! ID:78903

>>340

WWWWWWWWW

342: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 83381

>>340

super wwwww

343: This adventurer is amazing! ID:43302

>>340

What the heck is your material and what are you doing www

344: This adventurer is amazing! ID:78903

>>343

I can't say it properly wwwww

345: This adventurer is amazing! ID:54328

Isn't it decided that its Meteor-tan, don't make me say it, its embarrassing.

346: This adventurer is amazing! ID:78903

Meteor-tan is my wife.

347: This adventurer is amazing! ID:43302

Meteor-tan peropero (licking)

348: This adventurer is amazing ID:46907

Which reminds me, I saw Meteor-tan in the graveyard a few times.

349: This adventurer is amazing! ID:46907

>>348

kws (kuwashiku, give me more details)

350: This adventurer is amazing! ID:78903

>>348

kws

350: This adventurer is amazing! ID:43002

Take off the Panty.

351: This adventurer is amazing! ID:3212

Ate the panty

352: This adventurer is amazing! ID:00531

Received the panty.

351: This adventurer is amazing! ID:54328

The panty vanished.

352: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 46907

This is not a story about removing panties!! www

I merely saw Meteor-tan walking while looking restlessly in the graveyard when I'm visiting the grave of my friend.

353: This adventurer is amazing! ID:83381

>>352

aa, I also possibly saw something like that w, she's somehow looking for something, I wonder what's wrong?.

354: This adventurer is amazing! ID:7877

>>352-353

I'm so jealous of you two.

355: This adventurer is amazing! ID:46907

>>354

www

You're so jealous because you don't talk that much. w

Apart from that, I quickly want to see her fighting in the event .

356: This adventurer is amazing! ID:54328

I'm anxiously waiting for event.

Last time, Meteor-tan and her guild 《Ouroboros(Immortal Dragon)》 and quite its member entered the ranking.

I also only go out this day just because of it.

357: This adventurer is amazing! ID:9580

There are guys who are strong that is not in the guild.

Like me

358: This adventurer is amazing! ID:78903

>>357

Though you're not aware of it, certainly there are strong guys who is not in a guild 《Storm Emperor》 or 《Golem Slayer》 or someone like that are the monsters.

359: This adventurer is amazing! ID:95320

Well then, what is going to happen this time.

Chapter 14

Third conquered area 《Golem Mountain》. Since I've only opened up to the 2nd conquered area in the beta-version, It is my first time coming here. This town is made when the boss monster is defeated.

Blacksmith skill, Cooking skill and other production type players gathers and open a business when the town is made. And the players who are low level other than conquering are using information they got in the market and earn experience point in the area that are difficult to have a strange situation. Though it seems like the conquering group opened up to the 11th conquered area, this town also have quite few players.

You think that why am I come to this town?, it is because I thought that there won't be a lot of players here. The thing about being Tachi user will get attention and I don't want to get close to other people because I'm expecting to have a terrible body odor. Well, though its different from what I expected, there is quite few players. Now that you think about it, I can't somehow immediately go out in an area where there is a high level monster since there is a risk of dying. I won't go to an area where monster exceeds level 10 if its me.

And now, I'm in the inn. Though I was not able to earn money in that forest, It is possible to use the money that I owned in the beginning to spend it for one night.

The room is quite small, there is nearly foothold just by having a small bed. The toilet and shower's entrance is right by the side of

the door. How should I say it, though the hotel is made out of tree which seems to be RPG like, the mood is spoiled by the toilet and shower. Why it is so modernistic here. I'm grateful but.....

I take off the initial equipments to become naked and take a shower. Though the outward appearance like change such as removing a lot dirt in the body because of not washing for extended period of time and having a sticky oily hair didn't happened, somehow only the body odor became intense. I carefully wash my whole body while being impressed in the shower for the first time in a year.

「fuu..... Refresing」

I stop the shower since the body odor is completely gone and leave. because of being dry immediately if you get wet with water, towel is not necessary. I only wore underwear and shirt which I wear under protective gear and jump to the bed as it is. Though the bed is stiff, for someone like me who sleeps at the top of the rock, this sleeping comfort is really heaven. Rather, it is too comfortable that it is hard to sleep.

I gaze at the ceiling and think about the future.

Since I finally get out of that forest, I'll withdraw from fighting monster and stay in the inn. I'll be able to somehow make it with the present living expenses if I sell the items that I have. But I don't want that. Though I hate the impossible game like in the forest, I want to fight since now my level greatly increased. And I want to triumph over to Garon and his friends who deserted me.

「Shiori.....」

I remember when I got deserted. I wonder where is that girl now. That girl is also quite a gamer, she would not die easily.....I think. Though I think that the probability of dying is low because being in a party unlike me. If we made friend register, I can check if she's alive or not. I can feel relived if she enters a guild.

Guild is simply a thing like a large scale party. One player would declare the creation of a guild and need to have not less than 30 players wishing to join within 3 days to make it. I only know the things that was opened to public in the net because I didn't make a guild in beta-version but, it seems that some percentage of sharing received experience points would increase when a member of a guild defeated a monster. A strong player shares an experience point to a weak player and would be able to safely level up. Though there is seems various privilege, I'm not are of them.

Come to think of it, there was a bulletin board function in this game. I remember that I was making fun of by anonymous players when I'm recruiting comrades. I'll look at it later.

Let's sleep.

I want to ease Shiori and other by entering a good university and a good joob. That is why I take an entrance examination of a high-level university. There is nothing but studying in the memories of my high school life, sparing my sleeping time every to study.

Because of studying that much, I thought that I would pass. But the reality is cruel.

Just one step and I failed the exam. I became ronin because of not having intention of entering other than that university. When I fail, Shiori encouraged me while crying.

「N.....Nii-san.....Thank you for your hard work..... besides.....It doesn't mean it's the end.....It's alright」

I was encouraged by various of people, but I already completely lost my motivation. Why I'm the one who fails. Isn't it I desperately studied to an extent of enduring my favorite game every single day. Despite that, Why? Don't joke around.

I bought 《Dream》 with the money which I earn by working to go in the prep-school in the future. I used the 《Dream》 that was bought with the money saved together with my sister but, I can't afford to use it alone since Shiori liked games. Therefore, I bought a 《Dream》 for my own use, shutting myself in the room continuing playing the game throughout the day.

At first, Shiori said that taking a breather is necessary and say nothing more but she became disgusted as I shut myself for months. The words of persuasion to work hard came many times from Shiori but it did not affect my heart.

『Nii-san.....Until when are you going to play game?.....Please work hard..... If it's Nii-san, I'm sure that you can make it to a good university』

『Nii-san. Please get out of the room, please. I'll hear it if you're troubled by something. I know that it is painful to fail in university, but its not good to say like that forever. Please make it next』

『Nii-san, Shall we play together after such a long time?..... Please get out of your room, please. Why did you shut in』

『.....Are you a liar? Did you already forgot the promise you said a long time ago? When Mother and Father died, do you know how much I was saved by the words you said..... Please.....come out, Akatsuki Onii-chan』

No matter what she said, I have no intention of coming out of the room. Eat the dish that grandmother cooks and play game all day long. Though I didn't forget the promise with Shiori, it didn't matter anymore. There is no reason for someone like to protect Shiori. Therefore, give your best on living. You can live without depending on me. Shiori is strong enough. Moreover, a man would not neglect you because of your beauty. And get a boyfriend and live happily. Because I'm playing games. Find me a job in a good company. And then, share me some money to buy a game if possible. Since I'll get tired if I play only the same game. I rely on you, Shiori.

I continue playing games.

Everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday

everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday everyday
everyday.

I continue playing games.

I feel like having a long dream. Though I could not remember it, Shiori is inside the dream, crying. Its because of me. The pillow got wet. It seems like I'm also crying. Shiori cried because of you. Do I have the rights to cry?.....damn.

I want to see Shiori. And I want to apologize. I don't think that I'll be forgiven but, I still want to apologize.

I wonder where Shiori is now.

First of all, I decided to out. Since I can't be wearing initial equipment forever, I'll make some protective gear with the item I have. Though it would cost money, Its probably alright. I want to go in the conquered area here and check my own power after that.

And then, I'll look for Shiori.

I equipped protective gear and 『Bloodstained Sakura』, opened

the door of the room and go outside.

Chapter 15

The player's gazes are painful when I go outside. Because I ran at full speed when I go to the Inn, I didn't worry about that much before, but now I need to slowly walk to find the blacksmith shop. 「Hey, That guy is in Initial Equipment moreover, a Tachi」 「There is still a Tachi User? I heard that everyone already change their weapons」 「This is the first time I saw a guy who used Tachi」 etc, The players talked while looking at me. Damn, this is strange. Why does the management says that thing just to keep the game balance? and also, other players believe it too seriously. Why do they believe that suspicious-guy's words?

Walking within the town looking for a blacksmithery while ignoring the players. I found a blacksmithery opened by a NPC but I ignore it. Because the skill of the players who have stores are way higher than the NPC who have a production type store. Surely there is a player that opened a store in this town.

I found a blacksmithery that it seems to be opened by a player after looking for a while. All the store of an NPC are all the same and no distinction. The blacksmith in front of me is different from the NPC store that I saw before and It considerably big so it stand out. I decided to enter this blacksmith.

When I opened the tree door to go inside, 「rasshai!(welcome)」, and heard an idiotic voice. It seems that the one who opened this store is a woman judging from its voice.

Several shelves lined up inside the store also overflowing amount of protective gear and weapon were place in it.

Standing in the counter is a brown haired woman. She feels like somewhat boyish with her shortly cut hair. Face is quite regulated well and a characteristic of double edged big eyelids.

「Excuse me. I wanted you to make a complete set of protective gear 」

The woman opened her eyes widely when she saw my sluggish appearance. Apparently, Tachi equipment seems to be unusual. After looking my whole body as if licking it, the woman opened her mouth.

「Well. You, why Tachi? or rather, why are you still in initial equipment?」

A questioned came out from the mouth of the woman. I don't want you to ask me that much though. Tachi is certainly unusual and there's no one who's in initial equipment anymore. I mean, I was able to leave that forest with the initial equipment really well. It must be a miracle.

「Well, a lot of things happened」

I vaguely deceive her. but I was not able to deceive her.

Though she have a dubious face, she seems to entered working mode for now. I was asked what materials I have.

Hmm. I was able to have a considerable amount of material from there. For now, I'll take out to examine the strongest from them all, That Blue Bear (Its name is Giant Blue Bear[Gruvajio])

I put in the counter are the Giant Blue Bear's Bristle Fur, Giant Blue Bear's Sharp Claws, Giant Blue Blue Bear's Strong Bones, Giant Blue Bear's Tail and Giant Blue Bear's Fangs. The woman takes the fur and bring it closed to her face and examine. There is a skill for production type called 【Appraisal Eyes】, It seems that it would know the effects and the rare grades of the item just by looking at it. Does this woman also have 【Appraisal Eyes】?

「E, No way, What is this!？」

The woman leaked out a surprised voiced after looking the materials of Gruvajio that is in the counter. No matter what you say. Don't shout suddenly.

The woman's eyes sparklingly shine like a child looking at the materials in her hand. I have no choice but to look at the situation in silence since I don't know what she sees, <fuu>, the woman closed her eyes and exhaled and look this way.

「Why do you have this rare materials? Impossible, what is this. I've never seen this level of materials. What is this? Boss monster of somewhere? even so, I don't know a monster with this name..... where do you obtain this?」

The woman asked with a very interested face. Even if I sad where..... I cannot say that I went to 《Bloody Forest》 because of

the bug, What should I do? Hmm.

「Can you not ask that much? Its okay for me even if I go to other blacksmiths」

For the time being, I'll try to tell the lines that I read in some novel before. I'll seriously go to other place if I still hear it even with this. Because I don't want to attract attention and I don't desire it.

「Ah!, I'm really sorry. I understand. I'll make a protective gear with this. Ah! Since I can make weapon, What would you do?」

「Then, a Tachi please.」

The woman tried to say something with my words but immediately stop on the verge of it. I'm so glad. Because its troublesome to look for other blacksmithery.

「.....I understood. It would take half a day to complete it. Is it possible to register as a friend since I'll call you after completing it?」

I prayed Friend Register in my mind and a thing like a card appeared in my hand. The woman also take out the same thing and we exchanged cards. The Friend Registration is completed with this. It is possible to exchange and check chat whenever you want.

The name of the woman is Lencea.

「So Mr. Akatsuki, Its okay to have the cost after completing the protective gear」

I nod to Lencea-san's words and leave the Blacksmithery. I go to the general store opened by the NPC next. Although called General Store, it does not mean that all the types of item is there. The purpose of coming is to sell the item that I got and to prepare recovery medicine and etc. Since the work of Lencea-san would complete in half a day. And Its still not yet noon, I planned to go to conquered area 《Golem Mountain》 after this. Though I think that its better to wait and come with a protective gear and weapon, I honestly can't wait anymore. I want to quickly test how strong I became after one year. I've never think like this when I was in that forest, I've become like this when leaving it after all.

「Welcome!」

Its a general merchant stall. I was greet by the inhuman voice of a NPC when I stood in front of the store. I hand over the selected unnecessary item from the Item Box.

Red Bear's Fur x 10, Red Bear's Claws x 10, Red Iron Scorpion's Hard Shell x 10, Red Iron Scorpion's Pincers x 10, Red Iron Scorpion's Poisoned Tail x 10, Paralyzing Horned Rabbit's Fur x 10, Paralyzing Horned Rabbit's Horn x 10, Paralyzing Horned Rabbit's Tail x 10, Giant Killer Bee's Wings x 10, Giant Killer Bee's Stinger x 10 and etc, are material Item that I got in that forest and decided to sell it. I don't need it anymore. Because you can only stacked identical item up to 10, it wasteful since it would be staggering amount if you combined all the item that I get in that forest.

「It will be 1,262,926 Taels.」

「eh」

I instinctively ask back to the amount of money that came out of the mouth of the NPC. Again, The unit of the money of this world is Tael. I think that the exchange standard is not that much different than the Yen. Therefore, 1,000,000 Taels is considerably large amount of money. Its too high no matter how you look at it. Oh well, There is no disadvantage of having a lot of money. Though there is a danger of being PK'ed having a large amount of money, well, its not a problem if no one knows I have it.

After receiving the money from the NPC, with the recovery type item such as recovery medicine and stamina drink, I bought a Warp Rope that can teleport you from the Area to a Town and leave the stall. By the way, You can only possess one Warp Rope different from the other items. Besides, It becomes impossible to use when a fight with the boss starts. You might say that this is insurance. It should be an easy victory with the present me.

Of course the destination is 《Golem Mountain》.

Well, Everyone. Please look carefully to my magnificent and unparalleled Tachi.

Chapter 16

I was attacked by a humanoid monster that came out of the mud. Its name is Mud Golem. Its movement is quick in spite of coming out of the mud. It raised its fist and approach while leaving a track of mud in a part where it walked.

This 《Golem Mountain》 is literally a mountain of Golem. All the monster that came out are Golems. There seems a boss exist at the summit. This Mud Golem is the first monster that I encounter in this mountain.

I properly watched the movement of the Mud Golem while being careful not to trip on a rugged foothold. Its a good chance to check the performance of Perception Skill 【Mikiri Revision】 which I got when I defeated Gruvajo.

I opened my eyes widely that has mud and saw Mad Golem about to hit me. I saw the fist drawing near. The red like prediction line of 【Mikiri】didn't came out. Instead, It seems like I “understand” the opponent's presence of where the attack is going. Since I get tired of looking for prediction line each time, I obtained a good skill.

I evade the attack of the Mud Golem by lightly bending my body sideways, I cut off its head when it became full of openings. Though I heard that the whole body of Golem type monster are hard, but this guy. It got a softness that is like a tofu. While looking at the appearance of the Mud Golem disappearing that died in one attack in its vital points, I expressed a smile of composure.

The number of monster that came out when I continue to climb up. As many as 3 Mud Golem appeared at the same time. When I looked around, I saw a player that are having a hard fight with the increased Mud Golem. Just what are the level of these guys who are having a hard fight? While looking at the appearance of players that is fighting with all their might, I evaded the attack of the Mud Golems and cut them. It died by one hit just by properly aiming its vital points. And to think to have leeway even without using a skill.

「Hey, Isn't that a Tachi? Moreover, an Initial Equipment」 「A Tachi, Is this a lie? Did he just instant kill a Mud Golem?」

Surrounding players started to pay attention to me. Its troublesome. I'll go to the top more.

The Rock Golem which is made from rocks and 2 Iron Golem which is made from Iron attacked at the same time and I evaded it with 【Reverberation】.

【Reverberation】 is a skill when an attacked of an opponent is about hit, you can be able to teleport to its blind spots. There's no damage. As you might expected from a rare skill, its really convenient. 「When my opponent evaded my attacked, I'm already dead before I became aware that I was cut. The only last thing I heard is the reverberation of the sounds of myself being cut.....」 is what written in the explanatory note of the skill but I didn't understand it well.

When the fist of the Golem hit my body, my body became watery and disappeared with a <suu>. I attacked with new skill【Vacuum Slash】when I transferred behind the two.

I cut the empty space with the Tachi's Blade. 【Vacuum Slash】 is a skill that can be able to attack distant enemies. The transparent blade cuts the body of the two Golem in half, their HP became 0. Normally, It's not a skill that can kill in one hit but since my level is high, It's possible to cut them in half.

Then I lightly annihilate monsters that obstructs my way and arrived at the resting place halfway to the summit. Players restore their Endurance and Stamina here. I avoided all the attack of the Golems and occasionally testing new skills, you could say that I'm uninjured. There is no reason to rest. I'll go ahead. When I ignored the resting place and walked as it is towards to the summit, someone call me out in my back.

「Yo sonny, It's really unusual to have someone who use Tachi nowadays.」

「Are you okay without resting?」

When I look back, There is a pair that have a blond hair which is really flash. They equip protective gears that uses some scales as materials, They both have a Great Sword in their backs. While expressing a disgusting grinning smile, one man go around my back and touch the Tachi at my back.

「Hee~ It seems a quite high level like Tachi. Isn't this wasted

with you who have Initial Equipment?」

「Or rather, Why are you using Tachi? Isn't the Management says that its really low class. Is your head alright using such weapon?」

Their way of speaking and attitude makes me angry. These guys is certainly a type that would play around in their Job in real life. Trash.

I brushed off the hand that over-familiarly touching Tachi. Don't touch it all over, 『Bloodstained Sakura』 would get dirty.

「Oh, You got guts, What are you? Are you picking a fight?」

「Do you want to one on one me? Hoy!」

There are guys like that in school. Gathering in the toilet many times and make a racket and make fun those they considered low class. And when there is resistance, they will resort with violence and say ” Don't get too high of yourself!” and ” One to one” and so on. I detest hoodlum type of people, that is why I got angry seeing such.

The surrounding players begun paying attention to us when they saw us having some kind of dispute. I heard such things as 「Isn't that a Tachi.」, but I ignored it. Because its tiresome to react every single time. I'll tell you guys the might of Tachi. I'll send you flying if you got cocky. Shall we have one on one? Haa?

「Annoying」

I muttered in scowling voice. 「haa?」, The two said expressing a half-smile while grabbing my shoulder.

「Not annoying!, Don't get too cocky!」

「In spite of being a Tachi user, know your limits!」

I wonder why does the thing called delinquent bring their faces near whenever they talked ? Catching their breath is disgusting.

If one is careless, I would be challenged to a duel or something and it will become troublesome, that is so, its good to escape this place hurriedly. Come to think of it, there is no weak enemies in that forest so its perfect to understand that skill.

【Samurai's Spirit】

Its a skill that does not consume Stamina. It is possible to lower the status of the opponent that is lower level than you. in addition, it is possible to threaten the opponent by force. Just by maintaining it, lower level opponent would not be able to activate their skills. The effect is shown by activating it to the determined opponent.

「uoo」

「owa」

I glared while activating it, the two's body trembled with a start and withdraw back. The smile that was expressed until now is cramped and their lips twitch in spasm. Such people would not probably thought that they would foolishly pick a quarrel a high level player. I brushed aside the hardened two and walk again aiming for the summit. I heard in the back, 「Isn't that just now a coercion type of skill?」 「Does that mean that his level is way higher than those two?」 and other things but I ignore it.

Chapter 17

The number of monsters that came out increases when approaching the summit . Their levels also became fairly high. But I can still cope with it alone. I should have perhaps come in a little advance conquered area. I can't know the extent of my current strength here because of the monsters being too weak. I want to know how strong the conquering group which is now in 12th conquered area. I planned to inquire it after returning to the inn but, I want to check it by fighting them. Just by having a high level would not make you survive in this game, I want to verify their true ability with my own eyes.

I saw a forked road after ascending a little. Perhaps, one way is where the boss is. I wonder which way it is. I should have investigate this mountain before coming here. Though I thought it would be an easy and carefree win, it became this troublesome. It can't be helped, let's go to the right.

After choosing the way on the right and going forwards a little bit, I saw a grass growing in the land. I wonder why this place have grass when this mountain only have rocks. The number of grass increased when I keep advancing. Some trees also grows. What's happing to this mountain?

When observing around, I heard something that dropped sounds a little far away. That continued many times and generated tremors. It seems that something is happening. For the time being, I'll go where the sound came from. While being entwined my foot with the grass and forcibly removing it, I run. Perhaps, the players ahead are in danger.

Monsters are not the only one you should pay attention within the area. Players that came for PK and Traps. There are several traps lays inside the area. From the trap that make the players into abnormal status and monster house which would make a large quantity of monsters simultaneously rushing to you and others. Perhaps, I think that sounds just now came from the monster that fall down from the sky. Even if you reached the suitable level for the area, it is still possible to die when being caught in monster house. Because Warp Rope cannot be used in the monster house, there is no other method to survive other than defeating the monsters.

I saw that there is a large quantity of monster when I move forward. Golem type monsters are surrounding something and started to attack. Wood Golem that came from the tree which I've never seen until now is mixed within the Golems. It seems that trees grew here is because there is that Golem. Though I thought of going back to the previous road and abandon them as it is, There is no demerit for being in gratitude by other players, it would be okay no matter how many monster came, is what I thought and decided to help. It's unpleasant to be looked in cold eyes just by having a Tachi, they'll probably be shocked being saved with a Tachi. I don't know how many players within it but, I'll save them for now. Hurryingly running, I cut the back of the Iron Golem that was facing me. When they noticed me that came from their backs, number of golems faced towards me.

「I'll assist you! Are you okay!」

I called the players that is in the middle of monster house. It seems that they are not yet annihilated since I heard metallic

sound in the middle.

「Thank you very much! It would be bad if this continues!」

I heard a young male voice inside. It seems that they would be able to endure it for a while.

The Wood Golem makes a creaking sounds while charging and cut it in half as it is, eradicating the golem that came close to the 【Light Square】. The golems seems to judge that I'm more dangerous than the players in the middle because of defeating their fellow. The golems runs while their footsteps resounds. Oh..... There's quite intensity..... Though it can't be compared to bloody bear.

「【Vacuum Slash】!」

Cutting the golems that is in the lead. I approach the golems who's balance is destroyed by being tripped their foot with the other's golems dead body and defeating it easily by using skill. The number of golems gradually decreased, I saw the appearance of the players that is being attacked. Surprisingly, Its a young man and woman in the middle of the monster house. It is perhaps strange to call them young. Both of them seems to be in middle school Its quite good to come here with just the two of them. The boy uses axe and the girl uses spear.

「【Tri-Stab】」

The woman used a three consecutive stab attack in the nearby golem to restraint it and the boy used 【Full Swing】 in the fluttering golem to blow it away. Its quite a good combination. The rhythm of the two is in fit and there's no gap. But still, they can't win in numbers and didn't notice the golem that is approaching in their backs. I cut the golems that blocks my path and advance. I jumped over the two with 【Sky Walk】 and cut the golem that is going to attack. Although they both stare at me in wonder who moves in their back in an instant, I certainly defeated the golem that came close.

Finally, all the golem is defeated after 5 minutes. Though I didn't leveled up, the two seems to leveled up number of times.

The two take out recovery medicine and stamina drink from their Item Box and swallowed to recovery stamina and endurance. After that, they came close to me and bow their heads. When looking close, the two have the quite similar face. Perhaps they might be brother and sister.

「Thank you very much for helping us in dangerous situation. The two of us in that case will probably die」

「Thank you」

I'm troubled to response since I've never experience people bowing to me. It looks like an one scene in a novel. Its somehow embarrassing. Or rather, its different a response than I anticipate. "Being saved by a Tachi"..... such as like this.

「Don't mind it.....since helping is a natural thing.」

I replied in somewhat suspicious like. I wonder they would believe it, is what I thought then I saw the eyes of the two started sparkling. Ehh.....w-what. When I saw the two of them nod, the man opened his mouth somewhat in tension.

「umm, If its possible, would you please make a party with us!?!」

Chapter 18

I was stunned by the sudden request. There's no way I did expect that they would tell me to join their party. Or rather, to make a party despite of me being a Tachi user? I still remember well being not accepted in a party just by having a Tachi. Those guys are absolutely unforgivable. Absolutely!.

While I'm troubled how to reply, the two have a look of expectation. How do I say, Its really hard to refuse. They thought my silence is a denial, the girl became flustered and add another words.

「I-it doesn't mean that we will be in a party for a long time, we just want us to defeat the boss here together! That time's golem is strong, you seem kind since you saved us, please! because there is a feast after defeating the boss together! Even though I appear this way, I have [Apprentice Chef] title!」

The boy nod at her words. So in short, they want us to be in a party until the boss is defeated. umu..... Being stab in the back by carelessly joining a party with a stranger, can't be helped but being cautious of the possibility of it happening. Although I say it, Its difficult to imagine these two doing it, though if I got attacked, I don't feel like I'm going to lose. uun..... Let's agree..... I wonder how much these two know about the current situation. I might possible get various information. Besides, receiving a treat from a cook is really attractive. It seems that [Apprentice Chef] knows cuisine to a certain extent and since I ate fruit and raw meat for a long time , I want to eat warm meal after a long time. Oh, come to think of it, I planned to challenged the boss after this. There seem to be a benefit.

「Okay. Please make a party. I'm looking forward for the meal.」

The two jumped up and down in delight when they heard my reply. On what reason why they want to defeat the boss that much? I'm puzzled while looking at the two laughing in delight

「I-is that true! then, Lets register as party」

I take out my card to register the two as friend. Its necessary to register as friends before to join a party. The two also hand over their cards to and received the card. The boy's name is Ryu and the girl's name is Rin.

「Well then, uhmm, Akatsuki-san, please become a leader」

The founder when creating a party will become the Leader. I send the party request to the two and wait for acceptance. A short time later, a <pon> sound is heard and three of us became in a party.

Ryu, “please” , and requested a handshake. I also comply by grabbing back. I'm somehow excited joining a party since I've been alone by the time I came to this world.Though it is a lie, its somehow not a bad feeling. Be useful, Kids.

For now, Its been decided to return halfway up the mountain for once. I ask the two what's on my mind while returning back to the route I came.

「What is the relation of you two?」

It might be a little to straight. Well, it can't be helped since I can't think of something what to ask. After the two exchange glances, Ryu started to speak.

「Um, Rin is my younger sister. Though we are twin, I'm the one who is born early..... We are both in second year of middle school」

So its a older brother and sister as I expected. Despite being the two a middle school student, its good to survived for a year. You mainly see a people around the age of high school student in a town and area and can't catch a sight of a middle school student's age people. Because they are weak people, a small child would not survive in this world and die. Dead or I guess shutting indoors.

「Do you live with just the two of you until now?」

Ryu and Rin cast down their eyes in that question. Has I asked something unpleasant?

「.....Since we've been imprisoned in this world, Rin and I shut ourselves in the inn. However, money is used up after a while and thus we have to fight in the area..... At that time, a kind onii-san established a guild and gathered children like us. While dividing experience point and hunting safely, it reached to the point that we fight to a certain extent. However, one day in the second conquered area 《Dinosaur Jungle》, We got attacked by a group of PK players and our companions were mostly killed.....」

A—, I stepped on a land mine. So such thing happened. Though it is in this situation, there is still a guy who PK as I expected. If I'm also not careful. Nevertheless, they're still in the area even though suffering such thing? Having guessed my question, Rin opened her mouth this time.

「Because a low level safe area's town is overflowing with shut in people, we can't use the inn unless we're in a high level area's town. An inn in a high level area have an expensive meal and inn, earning money is necessary..... However in this world, we cant keep on living with just the two of us, everyone don't want to be in a party with us since a kid like us will become a hindrance. Even though I can make a meal, there is ingredients..... That is why, raising level here and we can be able make armor and ingredients that dropped from the boss monster and be recognized by everyone is what I think.....」

「Boss' armor?」

Ryuu answered.

「Because the armor that is made from the boss have a high performance..... It is strong and has a 【Vitality】 skill. Since this armor is used for a while by the conquering group, how do I say this, you'll be recognized if you have it? or rather.....」

There are some of the armor and weapon that can let you use a skill by equipping. It seems that the boss' material here add a skill to an armor. 【Vitality】 is a convenient skill which can make you

left 1 HP even though the players are attacked by anything. I'd also like to quickly obtain it.

「And also, since we've reached the suitable level, we thought we can challenged the boss and came here by taking the wrong route.....and then the monster house.....」

「That is why I said to look at the bulletin board once again to confirm it. Ryu is an Idiot! we're dead if not for Akatsuki-san!」

「I-i'm sorry.....」

I think you guys would not be able to defeat the boss even though you both reached the suitable Level. Rather, you guys mistaken the route is a fortune. Nevertheless, rather than the older brother Ryu, the little sister Rin is more dependable. Good grief, an older brother that can't protect his little sister is failed as an older brother.

「Now that you mention it, what is now the level of you two?」

「Uhm, mine is 23 and Rin is 22. because the suitable level here is 16, I thought that it's safe.....」

Haa—. Though I thought that its not too high since this is the third conquered area, my level has a large gap between. The conquering group just recently cleared the 11th conquer area. Just what are the levels of the guys there?

「What is the level of Akatsuki-san? since you are so strong.....」

「Its 60」

「「Haa!?!」」

The two simultaneously asked back. What is that face. The two's body is shaking and trembling. And, isn't they're looking at me with a sparkling eyes like they were looking at some people they admire.

「eh,huh, a-a level 60!」

「Wai-eeh!? Its a lie right!?!」

Ryuu and Rin approach quickly while reacting too much. Its not a lie. That reaction is scary. They can confirm about the level since we registered as friends.

「I-is it perhaps, Akatsuki-san is one of the conquering group!? So that means that you already came to the 11th conquer area!? Though I heard that the monsters there are remarkably strong, how is it!? Why are you in Initial equipment!? or rather, why Tachi!?!」

「Did you perhaps joined such thing as 《Ouroboros》 or 《Shining Light》!? Did you meet famous person such as 《Meteor》-san , 《Epicenter》-san, 《Perfect Wall》-san and 《Storm Emperor》-san !? Why are you in Initial Equipment!? or rather, why Tachi?」

The two asked a barrage of question in a terrifying attitude. I completely don't know what to say..... Please talk one at a time.

「I'm not one of the conquering group. And I didn't enter that Ouro-something or something-Light called guild and I've never meet those peoples. Because I have complex circumstances, I'd like you to not ask much about that. And, I wished to inform me in detail about the conquering group if possible.....」

The two dropped their shoulders in disappointment in my words. That's not something to feel disappointed.....

「we understood..... Though we are not aware that much about the details.....」

.....It was good to help this two after all. I'm able to acquire pinpoint information that I want. Most likely, regarding the conquering group became a common sense in this world. Because its troublesome to look in bulletin board specially the common sense.

I'll try to hear the story of the two. Now, the level of most of the players are from 10 to 40 excluding the conquering group. it seems that above it is not many. Most of the players are leveling little by little in a safe area, they seems to be in production employment.

11th conquered area's suitable level that is cleared by the daredevilry conquering group is 65. So far, monster seems to be exceptionally stronger than the area. The famous guild called

《Ouroboros》 and 《Shining Light》 cooperate to defeat the boss monster. And what Rin said such thing as《Meteor》 and 《Epicenter》 seems to be a player's Second Name. Player's name is unknown. 《Meteor》 is the guild master of 《Shining Light》, Sub-Master seems unknown. 《Ouroboros》's guild master is 《Epicenter》 and its Sub-Master is 《Perfect Wall》. 《Strom Emperor》 is a player that doesn't belong to any guild and acts in a party. As for their Second names, an active players in the 《Event》 that is held every several months and people will think about it and put it in the bulleting board. It seems that the bulletin board is really in excitement after the 《Event》 to decide the second name.

《Event》 is a thing like the event that irregularly held. The participant must compete with the other participating players. It seems that the participating person can changed their displaying name at that time. The players who's not participating can watch and enjoy the situation. So far, it seems that the 《Event》 happened two times. The displayed name can be changed and most of the participating players hides their names. There seems to be a player that acquired a second name at the 《Event》 before and participate the next displaying it. You will not die even if the HP becomes 0 in the 《Event》.

The 《Event》 happened twice before, the first time defeating number of monster within the time limit and the second seems to be an obstacle competition like thing. The contents of the third 《Event》 that will occur a bit longer seems to be a one-on-one battle against players. It is expected to go higher than before.

Well, that's like this. I see.

The players here are at ease enjoying 《Event》 in this situation. Well, you will be used to it in a year.Damn, I also want to go to an event, I want to watch.....

Chapter 19

We, who had returned halfway the mountain decided to talk about the boss. Intending to challenge means that they should have information about it to a some extent.

「Uhhh, well, the boss' name is Giganto Golem」

Giganto Golem's giant body is made of a giant steel and it seems tough. A shape without leg like it is buried into a ground. Though the head is the weakness, its too high and attacks can't reach. It seems that the conquering group destroyed one arm to loose its attack and simultaneously start to attack to defeat it. It seems it takes considerable time to defeat since the body is tough.

.....Just by hearing it, its seems quite strong but how do these two plan to defeat it? On inquiry, It appears that they planned to make Ryu destroy the arm with the axe and with its chance, Rin will attack the body to defeat it.I'm too amazed I can't say anything. Isn't it impossible for the two of them to defeat it when the conquering group takes a long time to finally defeat it. This is too reckless.....

「ugh—..... After all we passed the suitable level, and Ryu also can properly show the effect of Damage type Skill, we though since we quite understand it.....」

Rin puff her checks and Ryu scratching his head. There's a need for these two to know how terrifying the boss are. Even if you passed the suitable level, Its not good if it just about 3 or 4 levels.

Because the boss' level setting needed a group to challenge it. Though it will be easy for a moment if you passed the suitable level, you will die around nine times if you got cocky.

「Ah, which reminds me, Giganto golem is one of the monster that appeared in the first event! Did you know the person who uses an axe and defeat that golem alone at that time!? 」

It was a sudden change of topic. These guys didn't really know how terrifying the boss are..... Ryu have a wry smile in the appearance of his little sister. "Rin seems strong-willed, so you must have suffered as well", I wordlessly conveyed my condolences through my eyes. Though I don't know if its transmitted or not. hnn, but defeating the boss alone is a good thing. Everybody's level should not be that high in the first event. I'm a little interested. Before I say, " I'm not aware of it", Rin started to talk about that person.

「That person's second name is 《Golem Slayer》! Destroying the arm of Giganto Golem with 【Helm Splitter】 and stopping it by stabbing with【Swing Square】 is really cool~! He's really an extremely cool guy with a red hair! Ahh-if only I'm a little older and stronger, I want to be in a party with the person~!」

Based on what Rin says, that guy 《Golem Slayer》 seems to be not in a guild. With that much power, he's probably invited in various guild. And yet, Why he's not joining a guild? It would be safer being in a guild. 《Storm Emperor》 and that Cool-guy, there's quite a guy who's not in a guild. Well, there would be rule and other things if they joined a guild, I don't want to join though. These people perhaps want to be free. Even so its seems not gonna

happen having a red hair as a real hair, he probably tamper the outward appearance. Its probably good if I also set as a cool-guy a little.

Despite of derailing the discussion in such a way a number of times and spending a lot of time, we finally started to talk about the strategy of defeating the Giganto Golem. Rin is only attracted in physical looks.....

The strategy is this. Ryuu and Rin will attract the attention of Giganto Golem and I will attack when a chance is made. In case of the head not reaching because of being too high, It will be a turn for 【Sky Walk】. I'll probably defeat it by smashing its face with a skill. Though I heard Ryuu say, " Are you okay in Initial Equipment?", I replied "Its alright there's no problem". Though I'm a little worried about the defense, Its no problem if I avoid it.

「Then, Shall we go?」

Though I understand the change in the atmosphere in the surroundings when nearing the summit. Suffocating while the skin is stinging in stimulus. Its the same as that time of Gruvajio. I heard the sound of the throat of Ryuu and Rin. To be frank, I assured that they would unnecessary since I heard the situation, but I can't somehow abandon them. Is it because they're Older brother and younger sister?. Whenever I look at these two, my heart is strangely noisy. Although Rin doesn't look like Shiori, but somehow I see her as such.Well, Probably I can't abandon them because she will make me a meal. I'm looking forward to the meal.

「tsu!？」

The ground shook greatly. What is it!? “There isn’t nothing except Gigianto Golem beyond this point’, is what Ryu says. Perhaps, there is someone fighting Gigianto Golem?

「Ryu. Isn’t this different from what you said」

Ryu said , ” There isn’t anyone here said by the preceding visitor because the players here just increased their level without fighting the boss”. Most of the players in this world seems to not challenge the boss and raise their level and when they reached the suitable level, they would move to the next area, and repeat it and be stronger. Because they would recruit to make a party for several days and carefully prepare when fighting a boss, if it happens that someone challenging the boss, they should have noticed immediately by the players that makes this place a hunting ground. I did not sense such feeling when were halfway the mountain a while ago.

After Ryu’s body shake with a start, he bows his head in sorry.Although I don’t express that much blaming.

「For the time being, Lets approach and look at the situation. Because trespassing incidentally when fighting a boss is a bad manners, If someone is fighting it, lets do it tomorrow.」

Basically, the player is noninterference inside the area. However, Its an exception when they’re really in a pinch, with the exception

of overcoming it with your own strength.

We hurried to the summit by running.

「Uwaaaaaaa!! Its coming!!」

「Hoy! Properly attract this guy's attack! aren't you just running from place to place! 」

aa..... It seems that there are reckless guys besides Ryu and Rin. The two blond hair that quarreled with me before halfway the mountain is being drive to corner by Giganto Golem. The player won't be able to escape until it is defeated when the boss fight begun. Though I can help if I entered from the outside.

Gigiant Golem is huge as what I heard in the discussion. The dull and brilliant body seems quite tough. No wonder the conquering group struggled. The head is the only one made from stone somehow but well, It doesn't matter with that much height. The body seems to be sprout from the ground and unable to move, but it seems can reach its attack from all direction because of being in the center of the summit. It faced the direction of the blond hairs that is running from place to place by rotating its body and squash them with that giant palm.

To not be dragged into the boss fight, we stand one step short of the summit and look at the screaming blond hairs. Ryu and Rin have a pale face overwhelmed by the power of Gigant Golem. Well, Its understandable since if we were be in the same situation if we make a small mistake.

Were we who are looking from the safe point noticed? the two blond hair started to run in our direction. HP of the both is shaved to half and Stamina also almost nothing left.

「H-Hoy! Help us!」

〈banban〉, The blond hairs asking for help while beating the transparent wall. This guy's movement looks funny when looking similar to which pantomime doing. I laugh unconsciously.

「W-what are you laughing! Quickly enter here and help us!」

「Not good, The golem is facing this direction!」

Requesting for help to the person who you make fun of is really pathetic guy. Besides, that is not how you to ask. Do you think I'll help someone like you like that?

Ryuu and Rin stares at me. It seems that I may decide on what's going to do.

「Why do you guys thought challenging the boss?」

I asked why.

「I-Isn't that thing not important right now!? It is because we thought we can since we reached the suitable level!」

「Hoy! Quickly Help us! The golem is attacking!」

Giganto Golem is seen raising its fist aiming for the two. These guys would probably die if they completely eat this with their HP right now. That is why, I said to this guy.

「I would not be able to help you guys with the insane me who's in the Initial Equipment and using the super low class weapon. Moreover, snatching other people's prey is a bad manner—」

「D-Don't joke around! H-Help us! Please!」

「We'll pay no matter how much! because we will give all our weapons!」

What should I do—. I'm not pleased with the change of attitude being such manner a while ago—. I was tapped in my shoulder while I'm expressing a grinning smile. I saw the eyes of Rin which seems to be crying when turning around.

「Please help them.....」

Somehow, my feeling would be in amiss whenever I'm with these two. It can't be helped. Because there would be a bad aftertaste even such guys die.

「Lets go!」

I step into the summit drawing Tachi, I stand in front of the blond hairs receiving the fist. I was attacked by a terrifying impact, I couldn't stand and was blown to the back. I crashed into a transparent wall with the blond hairs and their consciousness is about to be cut. I saw the HP decreased a little.

「Akatsuki-san!」

Ryuu and Rin entered inside passing through the wall. It became impossible to go back any longer. Because there is only defeating Gigant Golem in front of me to return alive from here.

「S-sorry.....I'm saved.....」

「I'm very grateful」

The blond hairs yielding bows their head. Ahh stop it, move back because its irritating.

「since we are going to defeat this one now, you two must run away to not be his target」

I glared at the Gigant Golem brushing aside the blond hairs.

Chapter 20

Guooooooooooooooooooooooooooooomu!!!!

What a terrifying volume, Giganto Golem roars confirming the new target. A gust of wind attacks us. Ryu and Rin whine while backing off. Well, Its not that I don't understand their feeling. However, after all its not that much compared to the roar of Gruvajo.

The neck of Giganto Golem makes a <gulp> sound while rotating and roars once again. A gust of wind attacks once more. These two are scared as expected. Okay.

「Uraaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!」

I activated 【Samurai's Spirit】 while screaming undauntedly to Giganto Golem. It should be effective to this guy since my level is higher than his. Giganto Golem stops its roar and its body trembles with a start. It seems that my level is higher after all. The boss is getting scared. When I showed a sneer, I saw Giganto Golem's mouth seems to spasm with a twitch.

「It comes!」

Giganto Golem's main attack is the same as the normal golem, attacking with their arms. Though it is impossible to move, its long arm can reach the whole summit area.

Giganto Golem's huge fist is coming slowly. Big movements seems slow. We maybe able to instant kill it if its according to the strategy.

We separate in threes and evaded the fist. Though I heard the explosion sound of the ground in my back, I advance without minding it. Ryu and Rin stops at the right and left of Giganto Golem. I'm looking at the situation slightly behind the two.

Giganto Golem started to use its both arms to attack Ryu and Rin. Greatly opening its hand, It tries to squash them with its palm. The two just barely evaded it and started to attack each hand that is stuck into the ground.

「【Force Slash】!」

「【Tri-Stab】!」

The attack of the two hit the arm. Yet Giganto golem seems have quite strength and the weapon is repelled. But that is enough.

「【Sky Walk】」

Go at once jumping up to the face of the golem while kicking the invisible floor. Though half of the stamina is consumed, I don't worry about it and started to attack. I used the skill that I learned in the fight with Gruvajo, 【Overlay Slash】. Though i've never used it before, as far as I see in the explanation, it has a strong power. Though I would not be able to kill it, there's no doubt that

It would be a big damage.

「Overla-!?!」

The right hand that is supposed to attack Ryu comes to my side who is activating his skill. I was hit by the attack of the silver palm like hitting a fly. I received it with Tachi but as expected of the boss, I was completely blown away. I immediately fall like a meteorite near Rin. The ground was hollowed by the crashing impact.

「Guha.....」

HP is shaved in half. Damn, Is it really hard with Initial Equipment after all. I'll immediately die if I'm not in this level..... I stand up while enduring the pain, I take out recovery medicine and stamina drink from the Item Box and swallowed it. HP is completely recovered and the pain fade a little. It doesn't mean that the pain will immediately disappears just because I drink recovery medicine. My back is hot.

「A-are you okay!?!」

I saw Ryu running here. He didn't noticed that Giganto Golem is attacking. He seems to finally noticed it until when the giant fist is near him. His face is stiffen and his body is petrified. My pain is not yet fading. It was not a state where I can move at all. Still, I somehow start to move, I noticed Rin started to run before me.

「Onii-chan!!」

Rin address him as ‘Ryuu’ usually, but now she yells “Onii-chan” while rushing to Ryuu. Giganto Golem’s fist didn’t hit the two. However, the impact of the attack direct hit the back of Rin while protecting Ryuu. Her HP is shaved around 1/4. Damage is not that great but intense pain is felt. Rin limped with a frown.

haa. What is this feeling when I saw a little sister saving his older brother. I feel nausea when I recalled my behavior towards Shiori until now. How pathetic. There is a limit of being too uncool. I can’t look any longer. I’m ashamed. I’ll sermon Ryuu later because I get irritated. That is why dying here is troublesome.

Giganto Golem is already using one of the arm to attack towards to the two while they’re collapsed in the ground. The two wouldn’t be able to avoid this time. Ryuu aside, Rin will surely die. The two embrace each other and they eyes were shut hard.

Even I who is now be able to move because of the pain goes down, cannot save the two carrying them simultaneously. Then, I’ll take the hit. Interrupting immediately before the fist crushes the two, strike it with Tachi with full force. A terrifying impact catches the whole body and the HP decreased by around 20 percent. However, I was able to stopped the fist. The two at the back are safe.

「Hey, Ryuu」

「.....W-what is it?」

「Withdraw slightly in the back. I'll be the opponent of this golem」

「Wh.....B-but」

「You got courage to worry about me who is level 60. Don't worry about that and withdraw with Rin」

「Y.....Yes!」

「Hoy! Blond Hairs! Protect these two! I'll kill you if these two dies」

「「I-I understand!」」

Ryuu run behind holding Rin. The Blond Hairs ran towards the two and hid them to their backs. Tremblingly holding the Large Sword. There is no safety place as long they're in the summit but, there is not problem if I attracts the attention of this guy.

「Its surprisingly fragile」

I say while looking the silver arm that has a crack in front of my eyes. Giganto Golem stares at me with hollow eyes. I could see a little fear in there. No, I don't get it when I look. Only it is just a hunch.

「【Helm Splitter】rrrrrrr!」

Hit the cracked part with a damage skill. A crack spreads through the whole hand. Giganto Golem , ” I wont let you”, and tried to hit with other arm but the Skill I used once again is faster. The steel right hand shattered noisily because of the second 【Helm Splitter】. Giganto Golem screamed while the face is distorted in pain. That guy’s HP bar decreased around 1/4.

「【Reverberation】」

I activate it just before being crushed by the left hand, I transferred behind the Giganto Golem. Then the Giganto golem faces this place using one arm. It is unlikely possible to surprise attack this guy. Well, I can win even without it!

I once again jump with 【Sky Walk】. Though the left hand is approaching to knock me down, there is no problem if I know where the attack is going. I increased the jumping speed and dodge the attack easily. The head that is the weak point is now defenseless.

「Take thissssssss!!! 【Overlay Slash】shuuuuu!」

The moment when the skill is activated, 『Bloodstained Sakura』 started to emit a silver light. The silver light wraps the blade. Despite shining like the sun, I don’t think of it as being bright at all. I slash the face of Giganto golem diagonally as it is. It doesn’t end in one blow, I slashed Giganto Golem again and again diagonally. A silver particles drift after the blade is moved, just like a “Shooting Star”.

「《Meteor》.....」

I had a feeling that Ryu murmured something below. However, I didn't hear it well, I don't know what he said.

【Overlay Slash】 is a skill that can cut the opponents in ten consecutive strikes diagonally. The HP drastically shaved whenever the blade slash the stone head each time, The HP bar of Giganto Golem had emptied the time the skill ended.

Goaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!

Giganto Golem crumbles while raising a grievous cry. Though unexpected things happen, I was able to defeat it somehow. I let out a sigh of relief while landing to the ground. With a <pon> sound, my level increased to 61. Boss often have an idiotic like amount of experience, It seems that it increased well because of have few people in a party. Maybe those two level increased few times?

“Hoy”, I saw Ryu and Rin coming here while shouting. Blond hairs also come together with an excited looks on their face. Well, Those guys does not matter. Still, something feels amiss whenever I look at the older brother and younger sister. I'm emotionally unstable.

At that time, I feel like I heard the sound, <piron>, came out. Chat seems to pop out. The sender is Lencea-san.

『The armor and weapon is done—(^^)/』

Ah! That person use such thing as emoticons.....

A green gate appears in the inner part of the summit. A Warp Gate.

「Lets return」

Chapter 21

「Excuse me!」

We, who returned to the town, come to the Inn where Ryu and Rin are staying. Sometime ago the blond hairs 「Crazy, Seriously crazy. Thank you very very much」 etc, They tried to take out money but since I have enough I refused it, and say to quickly leave. And then, 「Hell, So cool」, I saw their eyes shining as they said it. Quickly leave because its disgusting.

Though this is made the same as the Inn where I stayed, there seems a fee when you asked the NPC to lend the kitchen. There should have no kitchen since my place had only a place to stay.

Ryu lowering his head and Rin who seems to be uneasy and stares at him. Still, It seems that I'm being hard to Ryu. It is not that I didn't remember a little sense of guilt.

After we arrive at the Inn, I scolded Ryu for exposing risked to his little sister Rin. I feel like I do a somewhat unnecessary thing like mixing my personal grudge.

「Because the older brother is born to protect his little sister, That is why its called " Older Brother". What should the Older Brother do when he injured his little sister, Ryu. Protect Rin Properly」

〈kokukoku〉, Ryu nodded many times, impressed to those words. Good Grief, am I in a position to say that. How should I put it , " First of all, don't be preoccupied with the matters about the

other area”, is what I want to say and yet why this “Brother” thing became the topic. Since my situation is worst. It doesn’t like me to say such thing. my persona is changing. Pull yourself together, me.

「Um, Does Akatsuki-san have a younger sister or a younger brother?」

Rin curiously asked it. Well, I can’t say such thing like ‘I’m the only child’. Its a question that the failed older brother me don’t want to answer that much.

「There is, a younger sister. She also come to this world. I don’t know what she is doing right now」

「Is that so.....Its good if you found her」

「.....」

I wonder what should I do when I come across to Shiori. Though I was fired up a while ago when I’ll meet her and apologize, I wonder what she will do after apologizing. If i’m not mistaken, She had companions. Will they make me join them? Shiori abandoned me before? It appears as if that she want to say 「I don’t care if you die」 in that situation when she abandoned me. Besides, apologizing after a long time? isn’t finished if she asked again with 「Haa?」? I feel like there is a dark emotion surging in my mind. The another self in my mind asked me. Do you really want to apologized to Shiori? Why do you want to apologized? How about Shiori?

———Do you not hate Shiori who abandoned you?

「Akatsuki-san, what's wrong?」

My sanity returned when I was called by Ryu. What am I thinking while in daze? What battle manga is this interacting with another self in his own mind. It is impossible to beat myself because I'm naive.

「Sorry, my bad. I was just absentminded a little. Anyways, what are you going to do after this?

「What should we do.....ah, we promised to treat you to a feast with Rin's cooking right!」

Ah, I completely forgot it. When I asked what I'm going to do, though I said "how about joining another party", that topic would not be late to say even after eating something.

Bringing up the topic, Rin seems to look awkward for a moment.

「Ehmm, come to think of it, I run out of ingredients now. Because of that, I have to buy something.....」

Rin said apologetically. So there is no ingredient. I'm a little disappointed to hear not to eat immediately because my belly is quite hungry.

「And then, though I planned to procure ingredients from now on, What do you want to eat Akatsuki-san? Though it is impossible for such complicated dish,.....if there is some you want to eat.....」

Something want to eat. When I heard of it, I don't think of it that much. because I only eat nothing but meat and fruit for the last one year. Haa. I want to eat white rice, miso soup, grilled fish and pickles that my grandmother cooks when I was a NEET.

「How about white rice and miso soup something Japanese food. Can you make that kind?」

Once hearing it, She have an unexpected like face. What is it, Japanese food is great. Such thing as freshly cooked rice and piping hot miso soup, certainly fantastic. I'm glad I'm born in Japan.

「Akatsuki-san is a japanese food lover right. I can make it? there should have such thing as rice and miso soup selling here. Ryu, Since I'm going to shopping, please take care of Akatsuki-san」

When I say my order, Rin said to Ryu and opened the door and leave. What an energetic child..... Ryu also have a wry smile seeing the door making a closing noise.” Yeah.....You also seem to have a hard time. Do your best.” I send the words of support with my eyes. I don't know if its transmitted or not.

It seems to take quite a time for coming back from shopping and cooking, shall I go to Lencea-san's place to get the armors?.

「Ryuu, Because there's a place I'd like to go , I'll go out for a while. I'll return before the meal is made」

「Eh, Okay. I understand」

I go out of the Inn informing Ryuu. The destination is that blacksmithery. I jog while ignoring the line of sights of the players. I was able to immediately arrive because I already remembered the place. What an ill-mannered people staring at other people's weapon.

I've become irritated as usual and opened the door again after half day, 「Rasshai」(Welcome), I heard the same clear voice. 「I was waiting.」, Lencea-san said sleepily when I went to the counter.

Tachi and armor suddenly appeared from her hands and place it on the counter. I thought that It looked like a magic.

「Its an amazing material as expected. I only make it but my blacksmith skill greatly went up. You're not an ordinary person as expected, right, Akatsuki-kun」

「And, How much should I pay for it?」

「Humm—, 100,000 taels」

100,000 tales, that quite expensive. Certainly It feels like that it

was hard to make weapon and armor as the rarity gets higher. And the higher the level of blacksmith skill, the higher the completion time and degree of perfection. Well, such thing as a famous blacksmith would be in a high-level area, since it would get attention there, Its just good here.

「I understand. Thank you very much.」

I put the bag with 100,000 tael in the counter with a pop and collect Tachi and armor. By the way, If the money is not paid or steals, they are forced to warp to the prison that is in the end of this world. And it seems to receive some penalty. Even so, Only just the PK is somehow can not be forced warp. It isn't accused if they didn't send a mail as 『PK report』 that is in the status to the management. It should not just me here who sense the malice of the management.

「.....Thank you for your patronage—. Ah, since there is a skill attached in the armor and Tachi. Make sure to confirm it later」

There is a skilled attached? I want 【Vitality】 if possible. It would make my survival rate fairly high if I can evade instant death. I'll postpone wearing the armor, I left the blacksmithery. In my back, 「Akatsuki-kun—. I'll remember your face—」, though I heard it, I ignore it.

Chapter 22

Rin already came back when I returned to the Inn. She seems to be cooking in the kitchen now. I'm looking forward to it. Since it would take a bit of time, I decided to have a talk to Ryu.

「Hey, Do you know other Tachi user players?」

As I speak so, Ryu answered with a troubled like face.

「Yes, I think there isn't at least among the Lead Group. And I don't see people who uses Tachi in the area recently. Until half a year when the management says such thing, I'm sure that Tachi hide somewhere in secrecy, though I saw several people who used it.....」

Certainly the way the management say it is strange. Though there might some people who would believe on what they said in the chaotic situation, they would generally think that there is something if they calm themselves. I don't know even if I have some special power since I've never seen the situation of other Lead Group. Well, its time consuming to change the weapon, I planned to move as it is with the Tachi since its trouble some to make the proficiency level to 0. It isn't that much terrible weapon as they said. Though I'll unhesitatingly change it if I manage to get a rare weapon.

Rare weapon is as its word says, a rare weapon. It seems that you can rarely get it if you raised your proficiency level . I don't know what to have, but the proficiency level seems to be remain.

「Do you know players who uses such thing as rare weapon?」

I asked because of being curious.

「A rare weapon. uhmm, If its a famous one, 《Meteor》-san uses a rare one hand weapon ” Bastard Sword”. Though I’m not that much familiar who have it or something, It is said that there is such thing as ” Saber” and “Spear”. These’s two rare weapon are among the popular and I think these two will appear when checking the bulletin board」

Hmm. Is the one hand sword rare weapon is “Bastard Sword”? What is that sword. I would know it if its “Saber” or “Spear”, but I’ve never heard of “Bastard Sword”. The nuance feels like Mustard Sauce, but what weapon is it? I’d like to see it imminently by all means I guess there is also a rare weapon for Tachi, but the people who uses it are few. Well, If there are few people who use it, then the Tachi itself is similar to a rare weapon.

「I liked to asked one thing, is it okay?」

Ryuu said which seems like suppressing his excitement. hnn? No problem.

「Does Akatsuki-san have Rare Skill? You flew higher than the Quadruple jump and disappeared, because you used a skill that I’ve never seen before..... 」

Ah, so it was seen after all. Because it is not a thing to be used thoughtlessly in public since other players will persistently want the information about it if they found out that I possessed a Rare skill. Well, this guy probably will not spread it.

「Yeah, I possessed it. Two of it」

「I-is that true!? Uwahaha!! Moreover, two, amazing!」

I already don't know what is the character of Ryuu.
“Uwahahaha”, you.

「What are the Rare skill that exist? Please tell me if possible」

「Let me see, if I remember right, I think that 《Meteor》-san possessed the skills called 【Phantom】 and 【Light Heal】. After that are 《Perfect Wall》-san's 【Revenge】 and 《Epicenter》-san's 【Earth shaker】 are the skill that they should have learned. Besides, 《Storm Emperor》-san should have also possessed it but I forgot it. I'm sorry」

There are 2 who have rare skill even in a famous top guild. Isn't it I might be quite lucky.

「The next is. There is a rare skill 【Self-Healing】 or something which is relatively easy to learn. It seems that you can learn 【Self-Healing】 by not using healing potion too much and sleeping to heal」

Is that so. Its important to collect information as I expected. I'll completely peek various bulletin board before going to sleep this night. When I put on recruiting party in bulletin board, someone response similar to being in a mood, but I wonder happened to it. Its not like I dislike it.

「.....When you defeat Gigant Golem, you used an overlay type skill, right?」

Saying overlay type does that mean that there are other overlay skill?.

「That is right」

「It would change color and power by using overlay type skill. Such thing as Green or Red, its different each person. So, though the overlay generally does not have that much strong power, there is only one player who uses overlay skill with terrifying skill. that person's color is silver. Isn't Akatsuki-san color is also silver?」

「Ah.....It was surely silver. Who's that player?」

「Its 《Meteor》-san. That alias is because it's appearance was like a “shooting star” when Meteor-san used overlay in the event. According to the bulletin board, it is said that its rarely to have person who uses the same color of overlay, but.....」

So it was the same as 《Meteor》. Just who the hell is that person who is called 《Meteor》.

「What is the reason of having different color and power?」

「Umm, such thing as level or weapon are unrelated, to be exact, it seems not yet known. I have a feeling that there was a player that told that it was fixed by “Luck”」

Luck huh..... Come to think of it, I should have a title as [Good Luck], but I wonder if its related.

「Ryuu, Akatsuki-san, Its finished—」

「Shall we go?」

「Ahh」

Rin entered inside opening the door. It seems that its possible to eat the meal in the previous dining room. I and Ryuu stopped chatting and goes to the dining room. As I approach, an appetizing-like smell wafts. My stomach quickly raise a clamor.

「Ooohh! Uwahaha—!!」

As I look at the meal displayed in the table, I unintentionally raised a strange voice. But it can't be helped. Served on an overflowing rice bowl while producing a glisten like shine steam. Although I'll be happy with just this, next to it is a miso soup that also produce the same steam. Furthermore, a grilled fish with

pickled vegetables, rolled omelet and likes, certainly a menu that I like.

「Errr, I can only make only this though.....」

Rin uneasily looked at me.

「No no no no! This is the best! Thank you!」

I sit on the displayed chair, I decided to eat with everyone immediately. Putting the hands together with everyone, 「Itadakimasu」. It's a menu which looks like a breakfast even though its dinner, but I don't mind it. If it's this menu, its welcome on any occasion.

Let's eat the white rice first after all. A big mouthful while smelling the good freshly cooked smell. I savor the taste while chewing 〈hafu hafu〉 because of the heat. freshly cooked soft and flaky feeling, a superb rice that is not hard and not too soft, a rice which ooze whenever I savor it. It is indeed surprising that such delicious rice is eaten in a virtual space. Next is miso soup. cooling by blowing it in order not to get burnt, I tried to drink the broth. Oh.....This is splendid. Though I like somewhat little strong miso soup, certainly this is just right strong flavor. Not a strong flavor that its salty or perhaps I should say that its to an extent where the taste of the miso understand well. The ingredients on it are also good. sprout potato, fried tofu. If I demand one thing, I wanted eggplant to be included in it. The eggplant that is included in grandmother's miso soup is tender and delicious. Well, its plenty delicious even without it. After that is pickled vegetables, I picked up the pickled radish. The beautiful yellow appearance is shining

and yet its quite thick. The feeling of heavy weight is transmitted through the chopsticks. A strong taste with a delightful sound of crunch came out when biting. After that is grilled fish. As for the fried condition, skin is a little brown. Grandmother's grilled fish is sometimes pitch black. I think that this grilled fish is quite good. Breaking the body into small pieces with chopsticks, taking out the meat by splitting the skin. The white meat shines, the sacredness is even felt by me. When I take a bit in my mouth, "Hooou", an admiration leaked out from my mouth. It's a good food texture with fat. It's not dry. The convenience store lunch box or grandmother's burned grilled fish have dried and less body fat is not a thing to be eaten, but this grilled fish is godly. The water inside my mouth is dried out whenever I eat grilled fish, Hiss hiss! Hiss hiss! Inside my mouth is hiss hiss! Hiss hiss, why did you give me this! Is what I want to scream but there is no such thing for this. A moderate salty taste. I don't want to stop eating rice. I don't know what fish it is. Its a shape I've never seen before. The taste is also different from the fish I've eaten before.

「It's called spear fish. It seems to be called spear fish because of attacking its enemy with its spear-like head」

Rin informed me when I stares at the fish. I see, so it is called Spear fish. This fish is probably only in this world since I've never heard of it in real life. Even though its not in real life, how do they determine its taste. Umu.....Interesting. Spear Fish, I'll remember it.

And then the fried egg. I really like it sweet and also salty. As for this fried egg.....Its sweet. But moderate sweetness, is the taste. Because it would not match together with a rice if its too sweet, I like this flavor. The shape is in order and not burnt. And the body

is very soft. Its really good to be made with such softness with this square shape. Fill the mouth with fried egg and a mouthful of rice. After that, sipping the miso soup, I chew pickled radish, eats a grilled fish and then, a mouthful of rice. A proper meal after around one year is extraordinary and delicious, I'm instinctively not saying anything and silently eating. After a while, I noticed Rin looking at my eating appearance with an anxious face. Ryu is eating deliciously next to her. Hey, the way you take out meat from the grilled fish is unskillful. Isn't it scattered. Moreover, you're spilling miso soup, be diligent, Onii-chan.

「Ummm, how is it?」

Rin timidly asked my impression. How is it well, isn't that decided that this is unbelievably delicious, young lady. This bad, somehow, the tension is becoming strange. Even though character is already not stable recently, its becoming even stranger.

「Its unbelievably delicious. I want to eat this everyday」

Rin gladly smiles when I convey my frank impression, after that, she suddenly raised her face at look at me. Her face slightly become red. Did she became that happy by praising? Though the " I want to eat this everyday" feels like a proposal, no one is probably interpreting like that nowadays.

Rin looked downwards, she's started to murmur something. What is it. I already don't know what character Rin is. Ryu would say " Uwawawa" or the likes when in high spirits, everyone's character is becoming off.

Ryuu is pleasantly looking at my and Rin's situation. What are you smiling for.

「Uhhh, Akatsuki-san.....」

Rin raised her face and started to talk slowly. Hnn?

「If its possible, will you accept to eat my meal everyday? 」

Wai.....What is this situation. Bad. this is seriously bad, hey.

Chapter 23

“Ah, Um, ” when I produced a weird voice because of being in bewilderment, Rin have a surprised expression and after that, <shake shake>, her face became red again and shakes her head horizontally.

「N-not with that meaning! Will you join with us as official party member!?!」

Ah, so that's the meaning. I think I have misunderstood it in a strange way. I see. When I think about the profit which I would obtain by joining with them, then the answer is certainly a No. They'll only be a drag as they are low-level and our levels are far off. And it will be impossible to act freely.

「If Akatsuki-san joined with us, we will hand over half of teals we get every day. We'll hear what you say if there is more than that」

Even so, that answer is No. When you think about the money, I can earn it myself; the gold itself is not inconvenience. When I'm accompanied with this guy, I'll probably not be able to go in a high level area. As Ryu said, aren't I'm in a level that can be with the Lead group. I also think of wanting to be spoiled by low-level players. If I do it lazily this way, my level will probably pull apart from the Lead Group. That's not good.

“I like the taste of the meal so let's move together”. This is impossible. When I think of me making it, though it would take

time, I can probably do it. Therefore, making and receiving meal every day in order to act together is not in the choices. In the first place, the first promise is until defeating that boss.

「Please. Since Akatsuki-san will eventually fight strong opponents, we will do our best to become strong!」

Ryuu is also bowed requesting. That's why I don't like it when things became this way. Certainly, I don't think it's bad to have a meal this way in an area if we formed a party together.hmm. I wonder what this feeling is. I don't feel bad being together with this two. Though there is something that I want to be in a party for a long time, it's not bad if they said to be together for a while..... is it? I think that this way of being lax is not good. But I feel like I want to be in a party together for a while. That's right, let's form a party until the next area is cleared.

My mouth moved even though I understood well that this is not good.

「Okay. If it's until the next area is cleared, it's okay」

「「Is that true!?!」」

I feel like there is also the same reaction a little while ago. Ryuu and Rin's cheeks were flushed, the two rejoiced. Isn't there's no person who will feel bad after seeing such reaction? I also instinctively loosen my cheeks.

I wonder how has it been when I have a last meal with a family until I shut-in? How nostalgic.

It was a warm dining table after a long time.

The next day, we come to the blacksmith shop of Lencea-san. The reason is of course, for these two equipment to use. Handling over the materials of Giganto Golem, aimlessly walking inside the town for around 3 hours until the chat appeared, we leave for blacksmith shop, pay money and receive it. Of course, Ryu and Rin paid with their own money. Though I'm rich, I'm not naïve as I would give them money. No, being in a party like this is naïve enough.

After this, being Tachi user stands out, so I decided to buy a mask. Because a mask that can change the tone of voice is being sold, I bought 3 of it. Though it's quite expensive, it can't be helped. It's a necessary expense. I tried to equip it after returning to the Inn. My voice became low, surprisingly, it feels amazing. Though the voice of different people came out from your own throat feels quite strange. The mask had a shape like a fox. The fox mask has a sharpened shape, or rather it is unsteady. The color is white and red. It is made quite simple. I don't dislike it. Though it is judged with the mirror, I think that a nice intensity has been produced well enough. Ryu and Rin also said that it suited well. My face would probably not spread with this now. If only I bought it earlier. Though is what I want to say, its troublesome enough If you used a Tachi.

After that, I equipped 『 Beheaded Demon ・Blue』, the complete

armor set of the Giant Blue Bear made by Lencea-san from the materials of Gruvajio. As she said, skill was added to the armor and Tachi. There is a skill in the armor which I have not seen before called 【Tough Vital Force】, and the skill in 『Killing Demon ・Blue』 is called 【Giant Blue Bear's Coercion】. I wonder if 【Strong Vitality】 is an enhanced version of 【Vitality】. I'll check it properly later.

The Giant Blue Bear's armor is very light. I can't say it well but it feels like becoming one with the body. A blue hair is attached in the equipping hole and its fluffy. The defensive powers are so high that I can't compare it with Initial Equipment. The attack of the common monster won't get pass with this. And then, the Tachi 『Killing Demon ・ Blue』. Since it has blue in its name, the handle and blade is color blue. When the light is applied, the blade is seen slightly blue. It's very cool. Because 『Bloodstained Sakura』 is quite a rare type weapon, I decided to put it in the item box without selling it. It's insurance for the time being.

Then, I decided to replenish Healing item and stamina drink, and go to the next town. Since the level of Ryu and Rin is around to make a living in the next area, it's probably alright. They also obtained a brand new armor with 【Vitality】 skill; they're probably alright unless they were surrounded in the monster house like before. Well, I'm here too.

《Undead Carnival》. It's the name of the next area. When I tried to inspect it on the bulletin board, horror type monster like Zombie and Bone Knight seems to appear. Because the quantity of monster that appears is a lot, it seems to be a good place with a lot of experience income. I don't dislike horror, but grotesque is the one I dislike.

Using the warp gate at the center of the town, we warped to 《Undead Carnival》. It is possible to go from the warp gate in every town of a cleared area.

My sight is wrapped in green light.

Name: Akatsuki

Lv61

Weapon: Tachi 『Demon Killer・Blue』

Skill: 【Step】【Sky Walk】【Spy】【Mikiri Kai】【Sense】【Parry】【Forth Slash】【Clear Stab】【Helm Splitter】【Drawing Slash】【Samurai's Spirit】【Paralysis Resistance】【Poison Resistance】【Reverberation】【Vacuum Slash】【Distance Slash】【Overlay Slash】【Strong Vitality】【Giant Blue Bear's Coercion】

Title: [Person who uses Trap] [Gekokujou] [Red Crest] [Tachi First Grade] [Tachi Second Grade] [Good Luck] [Fast Runner]

Strength: 234

Agility: 251

Endurance: 172

Vitality: 210

Dexterity: 130

Name: Ryu

Lv27

Weapon Axe 『Lex Axe』 (TLN: This is probably from the Fire Emblem game, Lex is a descendant of Axe Crusader Neir)

Skill: 【Step】【Jump】【Mikiri】【Sense】【Spy】【Helm Splitter】
【Full Swing】【Force Swing】【Vitality】

Title: [Axe user First Grade]

Strength: 101

Agility: 94

Endurance: 52

Vitality: 87

Dexterity: 53

Name: Rin

Lv26

Weapon: Spear 『Tricera Spear』

Skill:【Step】【Jump】【Mikiri】【Sense】【Tri Stab】【Cut Down】
【Vitality】

Title: [Spear user first grade]

Strength: 87

Agility: 95

Endurance: 45

Vitality: 78

Dexterity: 100

Chapter 24

【Event】 Blur on chat thread 1013 【Soon】

138: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 63125

Though I'm not one of the lead group, I'm super-strong.

139: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 00211

>>138

Will you say the same thing even with that Death Volcano?

140: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 19718

Which reminds me, I look at the other bulletin board, but there seem a guy used a Tachi in Golem Mountain.

141: This adventurer is amazing! ID:44263

>>140

He seems to beat golems with initial equipment.

142: This adventurer is amazing! ID:00211

>>140

Isn't that a false rumor? Although Tachi is making a noise this and there, it was all a mis-information in the end. Or rather, isn't it impossible to go in Golem Mountain with Initial equipment.

143: This adventurer is amazing! ID:24243

>>142

Seriously. Although I saw it with my own eyes, he almost defeat Gigant Golem alone. He's absurdly strong.

144: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 28280

>>142

I also saw it. He used a silver overlay. Moreover, the boss with a single blow of that. Maybe he had a rare skill.

145: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 63125

>> 143-144

I second the false rumor. With a Tachi, moreover, with the same color as Ryuusei-tan that until now didn't became a topic is strange. Though there is a guy who makes a ruckus about Tachi having a secret for a period of time.

146: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 19718

>>143-144

You guys have an amazing ID ww

147: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 44263

Though I recalled because of Golem, does Giant Slayer-san will also appear this time? Was this event subject to level restrictions?

148: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 63125

>>147

It is said that only above level 50 can participate. It seems that Meteor-tan and Earthquake-san will appear.

149: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 76103

The only player that I heard will appear are

《Meteor》《Perfect Wall》《Epicenter》《Giant Slayer》《Pirate King (Temp)》《Hekatonkilo》《Wind princess》

Or so. 《Storm Emperor》 doesn't seems to appear.

150: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 00211

>>149

I second. So Pirate King-san will appear www, will that guy still use eyepatch and a captain-like hat ww.

151: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 63125

I want to enter Pirate King's guild www

152: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 94321

If I remember correctly, the person who's in the top of the previous event will be seeded. The management also joined this game and looking at us.

153: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 00211

So Storm Emperor will not appear. So that means that one seed was gone.

I wonder which one is the strongest, Meteor-tan or Earthquake.

154: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 24243

Isn't it no doubt Meteor-san , ks (Kidoku Suru = Already read

through)

155: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 19718

Beaten Meteor-san.....hshs(Heavy breathing)

156: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 63125

>>155

Uu.....Fuu

I'll protect Meteor-tan.

157: This adventure is amazing! ID: 00211

>>156

158: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 81438

>>156

WWWWW

Fuu.....

157: This adventure is amazing! ID: 63125

Uu.....Fuu

Only one week left for the event. I'm looking forward to it.

158: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 99211

Which reminds me, It seems that some guild member of Earthquake-san come to the zombie town now. If I'm not

mistaken, I feel like there is one who have a second name mixed in them

Since I have spare time, I tried to peek in the bulletin board, but as expected, a certain bulletin board is in merry. I wonder how it became this way. Or rather, Isn't the two blonds are ID: 24243 and ID: 28280? What are you guys doing. Don't you make an excessive rumor. I'll participate in the event after one week and I will make a spectacular show with a bang, since I planned to become a famous role, I still don't need to become a rumor. So the level restriction is 50. So that means that many guys who are low-level than me are participating. Yes! though it would be hard with 《Meteor》, 《Epicenter》 or the ones who have second name, If it those guys who's around level 50, I can probably defeat them pretty easy. Does Overlay is overlay skill type abbreviation? I don't sometimes know because the mnemonic name in the bulletin board are at their own convenience. Meteor-tan is 《Meteor》, Earthquake-san is probably《Epicenter》 Or rather, what is 《Pirate king》. With (temp) or the likes and seems to be making fun of, but isn't he have a second name. Is he strong? Ahhh, will you please become the event day quickly. Since the top prize-winner are rare item or the likes. Will I be able to have a cool second name. having a second name is somehow amazingly cool sounding.

When I asked the thing about the even to Ryu and Rin, they said that they were going to see it. "You guys shall also look at my participation by all means", when I said that by joke, the two nodded in great excitement. Don't be that much serious. If I got defeated by holder of second name at that time, won't it became extremely embarrassing.....

When I said it to the two. It seems like the event will start at noon after one week. The person who would like to participate in the event should go there before three days because the participant recruitment starts at that time. Since I seems to be able to warp from the warp gate of each town to the meeting place where the event is performed, I'll go apply before three days. I'm looking forward to it.

So the guild member of 《Epicenter》 has come to the zombie town. Maybe the Zombie Town is 《Undead Carnival》. I may be able to meet them. Holder of Second Name. He's probably quite strong. I'd like to fight with him once before going to the event.

Author note:

The next side story is the point of view of Rin.

I think of putting side story occasionally.

Chapter 25

《 Undead carnival 》

The sky was filled with dense and huge clouds that there was no sunlight in town. The town seemed gloomy and the NPCs expression also looked somewhat lifeless. It was an eerie town. But still, the area seemed to be a good place for earning experience and money. Also, fair number of players were present in the area.

“First of all, shall we make reservations at the inn?”

Though, I don't think there were a great number of players in the area, but only a limited number of players would be able to stay in the inn. It would be very embarrassing if we came back from area and find out that there was no more rooms to sleep in overnight.

Immediately, we entered the nearest inn which looked good. For now, we paid accommodation fees for 1 day to the ojiisan on the counter. With this, we don't have to worry about inn when we come back.

“It is somewhat creepy place. The NPC also look as if they are dead.”

“Feels gross.....”

While we were moving towards the quest area, the two of them muttered after seeing the state of the town.

“So this is the reason why its called 《Undead Carnival》. It also seems that monsters, zombie and skeletons appear here.”

“uwaa.....I hate zombies.”

Rin’s face became pale after hearing my words. Maa, I also hate fighting against zombies. It seems that there are lots of zombies in this area. Their offensive and defensive stats aren’t that high, but they appear in large quantity. Though the experience that can be gained from a single zombie isn’t high but because they appear in large number it appears to be good for farming. It seems that many players raise XP here by mass exterminating zombies. But if you are careless, you will be surrounded and eaten to death just like it happens in a movie.

We finally arrive at the entrance of the area in the depths of the town. Ivy which was coiled around the wooden gate gave a creepy feel. The interior of the quest area couldn’t be seen as it as it was wrapped in darkness.

“Let’s go”

“Yes.....”

After gulping, we set our foot in the darkness.

“Huh?”

Waiting for us inside the area was the something similar to the town which he just had seen a while ago. The wooden buildings and the muddy sky were extremely similar as well. The only difference was that there was no one here. Not only to mention players, but there were no NPCs as well. This place probably is the ‘Area’ after all. Without saying anything, we nod to each other in agreement and decided to advance.

While walking I felt that the shops and buildings here were placed on same spot as that of the town from a while ago but it was empty. Well in fact, it increased the creepiness more.

After advancing for a little while, door of a blacksmith shop opened from which a NPC who managed the store came out. His face looked lifeless and pale. Then as if he signaled, people came out of the neighboring building. A HP bar was floating above their head and their name was displayed as ‘Undead’. Were they the ‘Zombie’ that were mentioned on the bulletin board? Are these the zombies really troublesome?

I prepare my weapon and take a fighting stance. Ryu and Rin panicked a little while readying their weapons.

“Here they come!”

The zombie who come came out of the blacksmith shop leaped towards us. I almost puked after seeing him drooling from his mouth. It looked extremely disgusting when I saw him up close.

Rin screamed while seeing something like this.

I swung my tachi towards its neck and cut its head off. The head fell on the ground the and zombie collapsed. It felt quite grotesque but blood does not scatter like it is shown in movies. The whole body transformed into grains of light and disappears.

“Nooooooooo!! Don’t come this way!”

Rin thrusts her weapon into the zombie’s face while raising a disordered scream. As for the weak point of a zombie, it was the head and attacking it at any other part dealt very small amount of damage. From a little while, I seemed to be only thrusting against its chest and stomach and wasn’t able to kill them at all. Ryu was absorbed in fighting against zombies which were attacking from rear and didn’t have room to take care of Rin.

“Che~ , 《 Force Slash 》!”

I cut the zombies which were advancing towards us and opened a path. Earlier when they were flocking towards us from all the sides, we could hardly advance forward.

“Rin, Ryu Run! Follow me!”

I instruct both of them before running. Though i don’t know if they understood or not but it was probably okay since both of them answered from behind. I cut off the head of the zombies which were in front of me and advanced forward while pushing the

corpses away. As it was written that boss was in some graveyard in northern part of area, so i guess we may reach it if we keep going straight as it is. There were no more zombies attacking us from front. Zombies were only coming from behind.

When I stopped running, I saw Ryu and Rin blowing away the zombies which were grabbing them from behind and somehow managed to follow me. Usually one enters the condition of being poisoned when bitten by a zombie. But they were bitten several times and had become poisoned and their HP had become half.

“Come, quickly!”

Two of them shook off the zombies, caught up with me and hid behind me. Both of them took out recovery potion from item box and swallow it in hurry. All right, with this there is problem of HP is solved. I feel sorry for the zombies but they will have to become target practice for testing out my new skill. I obtained that skill after knocking down Guruvaijo, 《 Rift Slash 》. I wonder how's it different from 《 Draw Slash 》(Iai Slash) . The explanation given was that it can cut his opponent in a flash.

“《Rift Slash》“

“The moment I call out the name of skill, a blue light began to encircle me and stopped expanding after 2 meters. It seems like it is not necessary to take a fighting stance to activate the skill.

The moment the zombies entered the circle, my body began to move on its own. In an instant, I moved to the spot where the

zombies are and swing my tachi horizontally. It was a series of high-speed movements. The zombies head were cut off.

I see. 《Rift Slash》 is skill that kills the enemy who have entered the circle with a high-speed slash. It's a useful skill in situations like this when there are many enemies.

Afterwards, we keep advancing smoothly while i killed the approaching zombies using 《Void Slash》. Though i say smoothly, but because the zombies kept emerging from every direction, it took us a lot of time to advance forward. Though we passed several players on the way, but because non-interference was a mutual agreement that everyone agreed upon so we ignored each other.

“Rin!”

Ryuu blew off something with his axe. It was a crow. When I look above, a large number of crows were flying. They aimed at us and came towards in like a rocket. The name of the monster was Rocket Crow. It cetainly sounds right. There were too many of them and we were caught off guard by the direct attack. A sense of pain ran across the whole body. I knew about crow beforehand from the bulletin board but because I was preoccupied with the zombies and completely forget about it. I randomly swung my tachi but the number of crow doesn't decrease at all.

“Lets Retreat! Use warp rope!”

Though the amount of damage received was little but there are two people beside me. Even if I am equipped with the Giant Golem

A armor, the attack of the crows has reached to the level that I can't receive them. HP was gradually shaved off.

“OK”

Two of them take out Warp Rope in hurry and use it. A green light engulfed us and we were transferred to the center of the town. Damn, I would be able to easily clear it on my own but because I made promise to both of them, there's no helping it. Enemy's war potential made me retreat. I will remember this you damn crows!

“What was that?”

When we returned to the town, we saw that the players had encircled someone and were making lot of noise, especially female players. When the person who was surrounded said something the players made noises...

“What is it I wonder...?”

Ryuu asked. I wanted to hear it too. Which reminds me, it was written on the bulletin board that a Title Holder was going to come to 《 Undead carnival 》. Perhaps it was him.

“Lets take a look”

I decided to take a look what kind of guy he was. I cut in between the women who were making noise and try to take look at the center. In the middle, was a black-haired Ikemen.

A cool black-haired Ikemen. His entire face looked smart and manly. As for the weapons and equipment, they seem to be quite good. But, What is this? Inside the games too, is it okay for girls to go crazy at Ikemens! (TL: Ikemen means good-looking men, handsome or hunk etc. well you get the point, right?)

“Oh!.....You over there, wait a second.”

The Ikemen who noticed me in between the ladies beckoned me over while floating a refreshing smile. Huh?

“You are the rumored Tachi user mentioned in the bulletin board, right? Did you come over to this town after hearing about me?”

He's different. This Ikemen was an extremely self-conscious person! Since I couldn't say this directly on his face , i could do nothing but showed a vague smile. Maa, since I had put up a disguise it doesn't matter. After looking at each other for a while, my shoulder was tapped from behind. When I turned around, I see Rin who looked flustered and excited.

“Umm... Akatsuki san. That Title Holder, belongs to the lead group 《Ouroboros》!”

Rin probably intended to whisper in low voice but it seemed that the Ikemen heard Rin properly and floated a smile.

“So you do know about me, young lady. Fufufu~ Thank You”

Rin blushed after hearing those words and somehow was able to restrain herself from being unsteady. What is she doing, that girl.....

“Now then Tachi user-kun. Won’t you have a match with me? I heard a story about you knocking down the Giant Golem. I was interested in your peerless tachi ability. To meet you here by chance, I really wish to have a duel against you.”

The Ikemen said so with a floating smile. He seems to be annoying. I think to my self that i can’t lose to him. Very well. I, the strongest tachi user shall become your opponent.

“Indeed. It’s good, I too wanted to fight against a Title Holder.”

Thanks to the disguise my words looked very good. My voice became deep and It was quite cool, i think.

“That’s excellent. My name is Kokuu, best regards. As for my [IGN](#)....”

(TL: IGN is short form for In Game name)

The moment the Ikemen, Kokuu said this「Title Holder」opened

up in midair front of me.

“⟨⟨Lance Knight⟩⟩ My best regards”

He said so with confidence.

Chapter 26

There is a system called duel in this game. It is something which is used for ensuring fair fights between players. When players are dueling, others can't interfere in middle of the fight. There is also the kind of duels where the HP is shaved off normally like in an area and another where the winner is decided by number of hits. Usually, one does not die after losing.

However, If the settings is changed to death match mode the losing opponent dies. Naturally, I will not risk my life just for a match.

When I asked Kokuu what type of duel he wanted to do, he calmly proposed the 'number of hits' mode. Since in that mode one just needs to hit their opponent, offensive power does not matter. Therefore, It's possible to win the duel even if there is a difference of level between them. That means that this fellow completely underestimates me. Interesting...., I will surely defeat this fellow.

The person who hits his opponent 3 times will win the battle. By the time we finished setting the conditions for the duel, we were surrounded by a large numbers of players as if it was a show.

Maa.., its natural to attract attention since a Title Holder and the rumoured Tachi user were having a duel. Probably, the result of the duel will be displayed on the bulletin board, therefore I cannot show myself in an unsightly form . Though I wanted to become famous in the event with a bang, this is also OK. Let me show you my skill here now!

The spearhead nearly grazed my mask and the wind gently brushes against my face. The spearhead is once again projected towards me and I avoid it by using <<Step>> and leap behind. His nickname is just not for show after all. The attack was quite fast. I thought I could defeat him easily if I got closer to him, but he's clever. Even if I evade the attack I cannot counter it easily. Although I could do it using <<Reverberation>>, I decided not to. Its better not reveal my trump cards as much as possible.

“I see. You have excellent movement. But you can't win by merely avoiding my attacks! <<Quad Stab>>.”

Kokuu's spear shines blue and he thrusts at me in high-speed. When the skill was directed towards me I understood that it was amazing. The spear was thrust at a speed which does not seem real. Four consecutive strikes were made.

Though with <<[Mikiri](#)>> I can see where the attack was coming from, my body couldn't keep up with it. I think I can avoid it three times. I twist my body to the fullest and dodge the first blow. However, second attack will come soon. I stabbed my Tachi into the ground to regain the balance, leapt towards the right and dodged the attack. And now for the third attack. I make a big jump backwards and dodged it. I take a step towards Kokuu and he delivered the last blow.

Mikiri means seeing through everything and all details of surrounding. You can even call it foresight

———-I was waiting for this!

Against the oncoming spearhead, I step forward while lowering my stance. And then invoke <<Parry>> to catch the spearhead with the tip of the Tachi. I tip the blade sideways while slipping my Tachi into the gap in his flank and drove it into Kokuu's chest. At the time of battle, a barrier is put up which does not let one feel any pain but gives a slight feeling of shock. The sound of glass being struck echoed when my Tachi hit the barrier.

“First of all, who do you think will win?”

“Guhh.....”

A commotion arises within the spectators. After hearing my words Kokuu's composed smile disappears. His eyes become sharp and his lips twitched. He silently grips his spear, glaring at me, and suddenly struck. Unlike before, the speed was considerably higher.

Has he finally become serious?

I nimbly deflect the continuous thrusts with the blade. If I twist my body to avoid the hits like a while ago then my stamina will not last long.

“You are pretty good, but can you avoid this? <<[Five Stabs](#)>>”

Here's the raw 《フィフススタブ》 and romanji for this is “Fifususutabu” which roughly translates to Five Stabs.

Five consecutive stab skill? The Spear turned blue like earlier and

was thrust at a high-speed.

So this is also a consecutive hit skill. I invoke to meet the attack. My Tachi shone blue like Kokuu's spear and start to move at high-speed. To deflect the high-speed attack, I also used a high-speed attack. Though the problem was that I could only do this a few more times.

“Hahaha!”

After confirming that my skill had ended, Kokuu smiled as if he was mocking me. I'm really stupid. I was knocked backwards and felt the spearhead slightly grazing against my stomach. Being grazed is not counted as a hit. I stab my Tachi into the ground to regain my stance and just like earlier slip into his chest to slash ——!?

An intense shock ran through my flank. A sound of breaking of glass echoed at same time. When I looked at the spot where the attack hit, I see a spear caved in there. How was he able to attack with the spear again!?

The spear vanished and I tumbled to the ground.

Damn! Is this really one on one?

Chapter 27

After I managed to get up and recover myself again, I saw Kokuu smile. Judging from the change of expression from a while ago he was looking down on me after all. I would also get angry if the opponent had gained point on me. But it is difficult to fight someone with a spear. It has a longer reach. Before I could even attack, he would strike me . Even if I was able to avoid it, I would not be able to slip into the gap like a while ago. What should I do?

“Since you managed to get a point over me.... I had to get a little bit serious.”

Kokuu said this while thrusting his spear towards me. I used my tachi to deflect his spear and fell back to get out of his range. The situation was gradually getting worse. Even if I avoid the spear, I have to get close to him to attack. moreover, his speed is really fast. Stabbing at his throat huh..? Ok! Lets give it a try.

Kokuu keeps shuffling at regular intervals and attacking time and time again. I barely avoid it by flying to the side. Using <<Mikiri>> beforehand, I avoid attacks with my tachi along with the physical ability. The attacks were surely fast but I think I could avoid them if I tried to. The story would be completely different if I used my skills. I faced the spear and fixed my gaze on it as it approached me and leap sideways as it nearly hits my body. I dodged his attacks approximately for ten more times and kept stabbing at him. I could see Kokuu getting irritated during the exchange of attacks. It is almost time.

“!”

I wait until the right moment to leap towards him and separate my right hand from the sword while turning my body slightly to the left and attack with only my left hand. One handed slash. I glanced sideward to confirm that the spearhead's location as it grazes my left shoulder and move forward. The edge of the sword connects to Kokuu's neck. The sound of breaking glass echos and Kokuu was blown away. As a result, I too lost my balance and fell down.

“Chi...”

Kokuu glared at me like a demon(ONI) while holding down his voice. His eyes twitched as he was grinding his teeth as he barely dodged the attack. I thought that this guy was really prideful but I didn't expect him to show such an expression. So scary...!!

“You will regret making me go serious. ”

While murmuring this, Kokuu activated a skill.

“《BEEHIVE》”

The spear thrusts towards me at an absurd speed. It's too fast for me to stop it with the Tachi. There were total of ten attacks. I use 《Mikiri》, 《Heavy Slash》and 《Parry》 to try to evade the attack but it struck me on the neck region, where I previously hit him. Was that a t*t-for-tat? Just as I finished using my skill, 《Mikiri》 showed me the next attack that was coming. I used to jump back. But, I was still in the range wasn't I?

” <<Comet Impact>>!”

Kokuu sticks his spear out and starts running towards me. The spear began to shine blue in color. It seemed like a real comet. While leaving a trail of blue light, he approached me. The speed was terrifying. It only took a moment for him, after activating the skill to arrive in front of me. I swung my sword in an attempt to block the attack but I failed. The spear pierced my chest. At the same time the sound of glass breaking echoed out and the words “Your Lost” popped up in my mind. Damn it! Why could he use the skills in succession? There was nothing I could do after he started using the skill.....

“A monster I defeated in the tenth area dropped this spear. It also gave a rare skill which allows me to use skills consecutively one after the other at the cost of double stamina consumption . So..., awesome right!?”

Kokuu said, with a smile on his face , while looking down on me. This was not a foolish smile like before but a smile that indicated hostility. That was enjoyable. After saying this, he immediately turned around and walked away as if I didn’t even exist. The audience dissolved after they saw that the duel was finished. Rin and Ryu run towards me, who was on the ground.

“Are you ok!?”

Ryu grips my hand and helps me get up.

“Sorry. I lost the fight.”

“Well nevertheless, to be able to compete against a Title Holder to this extent is still awesome. Also he’s at level 63 as compared to Akatsuki-san.”

“Moreover the combo of <<Beehive>> and <<Comet Impact>> was Kokuu-san’s sure hit killer technique. For Akatsuki-san to force him to use them was extraordinary already.”

The two of them spoke to cheer up the me who lost. Though I am thankful to them, but I don’t think I lost to him at all. Though he used a rare skill, I did not. If It had been an event I would have won.

I thanked them and decided to return to the Inn.

“I will deal with those crows so both of you step back at that time”

We contemplated today’s event while eating dinner. Though I gathered information before going to the area but It was somewhat insufficient. Let’s investigate a bit more about where do the emerge from.

By the way, today’s supper was beef stew. The light brown [roux](#) was overflowing with the meat of a monster named Fire ox who spews fire, carrot, onion, potato. Everything was boiled well. Beef was so soft that it viciously melted in my mouth. While its thick

but it was very mushy. Carrot and onion were also thick and tasty. I was pleased with the tasty potato. This is the best.

Roux is basically a gravy, or sauce, flour and fat cooked together and used to thicken sauces.

That reminds me , I Immediately looked at what was posted in the bulletin board. [Disguised Tachi user on equal terms with <<Lance Knight>>], It said. Because there were many eyewitnesses, It's credibility is said to be high. Maa, since I will be fighting with my full power in the event, therefore <<Lance Knight>> will lose .

We returned to our rooms after finishing our meals. I am staying in a room by myself while Ryu and Rin have their own. I removed my protective gear to take a shower and decided to go to bed early.

Chapter 28

I got into the bed and closed my eyes. Today's incident replayed within my mind. The zombies were pretty scary. Their faces seemed lifeless, shaky footsteps and the arms were stretched out as to grab anything they find. I liked watching zombie movies, but when I saw them on that day, my heart trembled as I wondered if they would come to attack.

I shook off the thoughts about zombie from mind and recalled today's fight against the <<Lance Knight>>. The thrusts which were unleashed at high-speed were really frightening. Even though I had enough power to split open anything, it was useless due to his speed. After a long time, I enjoyed a duel in the game. The sense of tension was forgotten when you relax and avoid losing the duel by missing the opponents attack by hair breadth. I couldn't have enjoyed it if there was a risk to my life, but it was a safe duel. It was fun.

If I go to the event, then I might be able to enjoy more such exhilarating experiences. I am really looking forward to it. Next time when that guy uses a combo of rare skills, I will simply use my rare skill <<Reverberation>>. I have to be careful while showing it, though it won't be a problem if I finish the duel in one move.

While I was imagining the future fights that will take place in the event on bed with agony, knock knock the door was knocked. I woke up and asked who was at the door. You can lock the door so that someone doesn't attack you in your sleep. However, since I was unlocking the door so, if I am not careful while opening the door then I might be killed by an unfamiliar person.

“Akatsuki-san..... Please give me permission to enter”

It's Ryuu. To be coming at such a time..... I thought about it but then again it wasn't that late yet. I unlocked the door and told him come inside. The door slowly opened and Ryuu timidly entered the room. I told him to sit on the bed.

“Sorry for disturbing you like this.... actually there was something I wanted to talk to you about..... Rin has already slept.”

Ryuu said so while sitting down next to me.

“Considering today's situation it seems that area can most-probably be cleared by tomorrow.”

“Oh! Is it something like that?. Going by today's progress, we can surely break through << Undead Carnival >> by tomorrow. I will kick the zombies around and kill the crows using <<Void Slash>> on the way towards the graveyard. Then defeat the ghosts and skeleton soldiers coming out of the graves and defeat the boss, Skull Spider. Yesterday was just scouting so we came back soon, but tomorrow I intend to capture it until the end.”

“Ah..... Probably.”

When I said so, Ryuu laughed wryly.

“I wanted to ask you for a long time, why did you decide to follow me ? You could have stayed in golem mountain since there were fewer groups and open an inn I guess? Wasn’t it better if you lived there safely? ”

“.....Certainly we could have lived safely in the golem mountains. We could have led a steady life by earning money through hunting.... But we would have leveled up very slowly if we lived there. I want to become stronger. If possible, I want to always be protected by a strong person like you and live a comfortable life. But I know that can’t rely on you forever.”

“Why are you going this far to get stronger?”

“I told you before.... The guild I belonged was destroyed by a group of PK players. Those people appear in low-level areas and attack people. If we hunt in the golem mountain as it is, then they may attack us again. Therefore I want to become strong enough to fight against them.”

PK players huh...? There was a note written on the bulletin board that the PK players appeared at such-places. It seems that various guilds are cooperating to catch PK players. PK players have also formed their guilds and some of them are famous having name such as <<Ghouls>> and <<Bloody Eyes>>.

“There were also rumors that a lot of monsters will be attacking the town during the upcoming event, and since high level players like to show off in front, the low-level players”

..... Since the event is only a rumor I should treat it as it is. Though certainly, high level player do like show off in front row. I see....., this is a valid reason to get stronger.

“Umm... Thank You for everything up till now....., I should go back now. Let’s do our best tomorrow.”

“..... uh huh”

Ryuu said so while lowering his head and left the room. He’s indeed a reliable elder brother. I must get a grip on myself too.

There was place called graveyard in this area. It seems that there were tombstones lined up with names of deceased players engraved on it. Since I haven’t been there myself, I don’t fully understand. When a player dies, people registered in the person’s friend list get notified with location of tombstone. Is Shiori alive? or is her name has been engraved on a tombstone. I don’t know yet but I don’t plan to search for Shiori’s name in the graveyard. It would be better to search in <<Arcadia>> for someone matching her description.

Now then, let’s go to sleep already. When I was in forest I slept as soon as I finished my supper. I already fell into this habit ever since. I closed my eyes again and my consciousness slowly slipped into the darkness

Chapter 29

I cut down the zombies which were leaping towards me and charged towards the Graveyard. Ryu and Rin steadily followed me while I defeated the zombie in front of us. Rin, who was screaming last time, was now firmly aiming at the vital points of zombies while having disgusted expression. As for Ryu, he swung his axe and blew away zombies all together. Ryu was strong. He calmly perceived everything and acts according to the situation.

Even if he is unable to deal with zombies sometimes, he doesn't get impatient and occasionally checks up on Rin. Ryu had improved dramatically. He can become a considerably good player if his level goes up.

..... Although I said such things like I was some big-shot myself, but Ryu really was strong. Possibly he would have been stronger than me if he was at same level as me..... I felt somewhat annoyed by after thinking this.....

I mince the zombies up ahead using <<Force Slash>>. We are now at the spot where the crows emerge. Zombies have also stopped coming a while ago. I cover Ryu and Rin using <<Void Slash>> and run away from the zombies.

“Fall back”

I watched while taking cover of the building. A large number of crows were flying in the air. I told two of them to fall back and rushed out from the cover. Since we are in a party, therefore, two

of them will also receive some experience. But to be honest, the reason for doing I did this was to quickly raise their levels.

“Hah!!”

I launch <<Void Slash>> in the middle of the black cluster. The crows screamed and scattered. Soon dozens of the body fell down. However, there are still many remaining. The crows plunge towards me like a rocket. They were in vast numbers. It was written on the bulletin board that one should escape instead of facing crows, but this time I consider to knock down them altogether. I also wanted to use that skill.

I didn't act and let the crows come closer until very last-minute and activated <<Overlay Slash>> just before they hit me. A silvery light enveloped the tachi. Same color as <<Meteor>>? How beautiful.

“Haaaaaaah!!”

I swung my tachi diagonally downwards at high-speed and mow down the attacking crows one after another. Every time I swung, several crows screamed and disappeared. As expected, it has amazing power. Silver Colored meteors rained incessantly and finished off most of the crows. A number of them struck my body with their beaks but I didn't take much damage. I vaguely swung my tachi and defeated them.

“Akatsuki-san!”

Ryuu and Rin jumped out from the cover of the building. Both of them had a flushed face and looked slightly glad.

“Both of us Leveled up!!”

“I gained a new skill!!”

It seems to be because of the experience collected from the crows. Excellent. It seems that quite a good amount of monsters are coming out of the graveyard, so perhaps it may be possible to gain another level by defeating the boss. If you defeat a boss with three people you would receive quite a bit of experience

Judging from the atmosphere, it feels quite creepy. Approximately 30,000 gravestones seem to be put on the bulletin board. wonder how they counted it. One-third of those names seemed to be engraved on the tombstones. It seems that a considerable number of dead people came out in the first place.

“The monsters that would come out from the graveyard are ghosts, skeletons, bone knights and bone dogs. I believe you already know this but there’s a high percentage of getting confused by the ghosts attack. Be careful”

“”Yes!””

The sound of thunder rumbled when we entered the graveyard. Rain also began to fall though it was light. The <<Undead Carnival>>

does tend to have bad weather such as thunderstorm and rain. Lightning and rain were indeed fitting in regards to the setting of a cemetery. Please spare me. Ryuuk stuck close to Rin. It's charming. Since both Ryuuk and Rin had a well refined face they looked like a beautiful couple. In fact, their appearance too didn't seem to be similar to each other. Damn Ikemens.

A while after advancing, something suddenly sprung out from the ground and grabbed my feet. A Skeleton? In turn, many hands began to spring up from the ground. The ground bulged and a skeleton crawled out. Every bone was yellowed. The hollow eyes were ghastly.

I cut off the skeleton's arm from my foot and cut off its neck. rattle-rattle The skull flew while making a rattling noise and disappeared as a grain of light. Despite becoming panicked due to the appearance of the new monster, Rin crushed the head with her spear. Ryuuk knocked down the approaching skeletons calmly. As expected.

“Let's move!”

I told so to both of them while defeating the few skeletons that blocked the passage and made a way to escape from the zombies from a little while ago and began running. They followed me while blowing away the hands of the skeletons coming from the sides. Many skeletons sprung out from the ground and they required a lot of effort to deal with them. I advance while not dealing with them whenever possible.

After advancing for a while, bone dogs came out this time. Five in

total. They were just skeletons shaped like dogs. If It was only this much, then those two should manage somehow.

If I am the only one who's knocking them down then their XP won't go up.

“I leave them to you two”

I stepped down. Though they looked surprised but they immediately nodded and pointed their weapons towards the incoming bone dogs. Rin dealt with the approaching bone dogs altogether using <<Toss away>>¹ skill. <<Toss away>> is a skill in which spear is swung horizontally and causes a wide area shock. Then Ryu launched <<Full Swing>>. Two of the bone dogs were crushed by the <<Full Swing>> and their HP became 0. Remaining three bone dogs regain their balance and jump towards Rin.

“<<Tri Stab>>”

The spearhead was thrust into the wide open mouth at high-speed. Instantly, the mouth of the three of them was almost smashed. However, there is a little bit of HP left. Bone Dog mustered last of his remaining strength and tries to attack Rin again but Ryu gave a decisive blow with the axe from behind. They really were an excellent duo.

Could I become intimate like this way together with Shiori? I wonder.

Chapter 30

“Shit!”

A large amount of skeletons started to emerge from the ground. Front, back, right, left, they were flooding in from all the directions. Individually, they were easy to deal with but it was troublesome since they were in such large numbers. I knocked down the skeletons upfront using《Void Slash》to let Ryu and Rin go ahead and face against a Skeleton. I cut the approaching skeleton using《Rift Slash》and its head fell on the ground while making a dry clattering sound.

It's better not to confront them directly like it was written on the bulletin board. Even though for the sake of earning XP, this would be too much of a pain. Six people were required to farm XP here, or so it was written, but I didn't think that it would be really true.

After clearing them up a bit, I went towards Ryu and Rin who were waiting up for me up ahead. Rin asked with a worried expression.

“Are you okay?”

“I'm all right. No problems.”

Almost none of my HP was shaved off by the enemy's attacks. Rin and Ryu seemed to use the recovery drug and stamina potion as their HP and stamina were full.

“We finally covered half of the grave. The Ghosts and Bone Knight start appearing beyond this point. Keep your guard up and don’t be careless. “

“”Yes!!””

Still, there were a tremendous number of graves up ahead. Even after we had moved so much, we still reached only halfway. 30,000 graves huh? No names were engraved on the tombstones placed here. They were just stones.

After advancing for a while, a blue hand suddenly protruded out from a gravestone. It moved towards Rin. Ryu swung his axe before I could make a move. The blue hand suddenly disappeared as the axe hit it. At the very next moment, a scream came out of the tombstone from where the blue hand protruded which made me want to close my ears.

Rin started trembling due to fear..... soo cute.

The scream stopped after a few seconds. A semi-transparent blue body suddenly emerged from the grave. It was a ghost, having long slender arms and face distorted with pain. Looking at it, I felt unreasonably ill. auaaa Rin said while trembling. Ryu observed the ghost calmly without changing his expression. To not to react to these disgusting looking fellows, as expected of Ryu.

oooooooo The ghost sprang up while groaning in a low voice. Damn! , why were so many monsters attacking us simultaneously

in this area. I pierced the face of a ghost who was attacking from my right. There was no response, but the ghost screamed like the earlier one a while ago and disappeared. With this, seems like it was defeated. I decided to knock down several ghosts whose hands were reaching out using 《 Light Square 》and advanced quickly. Ghost attacks were troublesome.

“Rin! Under your feet!”

Suddenly, Ryuu yelled about something towards Rin. Under her feet? Looking under her feet, there was a small blue button on the ground. It looked like that Rin did not understand exactly what Ryuu was saying and stepped on the button while piercing a ghost with a spear. Shit! I avoided the ghost attack by lowering my stance and ran towards Rin at full speed.

“ooooo!”

I made it in time. I frantically pushed away Rin before she could step on the button . Rin collided against the gravestone heavily and lost a little HP. I managed to protect Rin but in the process I stepped on the button. At that moment, many spears suddenly flew in from all the directions and stabbed me. A quarter of my HP was reduced.

“Urgghh!!”

The spears pierced my armour. The sensation of pain that I felt in the spot where spear stabbed me was of both burning and freezing at the same time. I couldn't stand it and collapsed on my

knees. I heard the shout of Rin and Ryu but I couldn't understand what they were saying. I wasn't able to think of anything due to the pain. After a while, the spears became a ball of light and disappeared. However, the pain still remained.

While I waited for the pain to subside, the ghosts attacked me. Several ghosts threw themselves onto me as I couldn't move my body. There was no physical damage but my whole body felt a freezing sensation. They were continuously attacking over and over again. What were the siblings doing? The moment the Ghost passed through my body, my vision started to distort. My head got hot and I didn't know what I was doing. Not good. I feel nauseated. Shit! Am I confused? I got dizzy and couldn't stand up . A cold sensation came from the back of my body and passed thorough my chest.

“Are you okay!?”

All of a sudden, my senses returned to normal and confusion was lifted off. Still, I was not able to get up immediately and seemed to stumble several times before I could finally get up. After Ryu looked at me with a sign of relief , his face became stiff immediately. Rin was fighting the ghosts in the rear. Ryu and I immediately went to the place where Rin was and helped her. It looks like while I was confused, they knocked down a good number of ghosts. There were only five ghosts left.

Rin pierced the face of a ghost with the spear. However it didn't disappear and while screaming, stretched its arms and tried to catch Rin. Ryu hammered down his axe on the head and knocked it down. The rest of the ghosts were defeated quickly.

The trap from a while ago shaved off a quarter of my HP even if I was equipped with a good level armor. I thought I was going to die. Since my level was high I thought that it would have been difficult for the enemy's attack to give me an abnormal condition but I was unlucky this time. I wish I had a luck title. Maybe if I had a 《 Good Luck 》 then I might not have got the abnormal status. But, from what I read it is a very rare skill and it may not even work against abnormal conditions.

Rin approached with a crying face.

“A-, ano.....”

“Tell me at the next resting point, It's dangerous to talk here.”

I interrupted Rin and went ahead. Ryu silently patted Rin and both of them followed me. You have a very good elder brother, Rin.

Chapter 31

The Bone knight was a skeleton equipped with the armor and a spear, and mounted on a horse composed of bone. It's defense and attack power were much higher than the normal skeletons. Compared to the zombies and other skeletons, it's appearance was like a mountain. At the same time, Five more Bone knights emerged.

As we were advancing further inside the graveyard, several spears suddenly appeared in front of my eyes. Afterwards, a bone hand grasping a spear appeared. The brown soil which was stuck to armor ,gauntlets and the horse skeleton came off. The Bone knight.

There were four Vaughan knights. I decided to take on two of them and left the other two to Ryu and Rin. At first, I chose to use a proper attack and thrust into a Bone Knight. The Bone knight tried to intercept my blade with its spear. Hah! Foolish. My level was much higher than yours. The blade cut through the heavy spear and severed it. It did not just stop there. Just as it was, the blade advanced as far as to cut off its Head. Three companion of the Bone Knight simultaneously thrust towards me, but I evaded to left using 《step》. After that, the head of a Bone Knight riding on horse got chopped off, and its body tumbled down. With this, two of them were defeated. Afterwards, I leave the remaining ones to Ryu and Rin. I retreated watched over the pair's back dodging Bone Knight's attack.

The teamwork of those two was amazing or perhaps I should say that they can understand what the other was going to do without saying a word? Ryu plunged towards Bone Knight and started

attacking it. Rin provided support from rear by thrusting spear towards it which made Bone Knight Flinch . Ryuu started hammering with his axe. This feeling was exactly of being one with body and soul

The fight ended after a few minutes. Ryuu mowed down the axe and delt a fatal blow to the dying Bone knight. Bone knight tumbled down from the horse and became gem of light before disappearing. The skeleton horse, also becomes gem of light and disappeared as if following its master.

The couple breathed a sigh of relief and walked towards me.

「Weren't you wonderful? Both of you had amazing teamwork. 」

When I praised them, the pair became embarrassed and laughed.

After that, we went out to the plaza where the many Vaughan knights and ghosts were knocked down. Apparently, it was a checkpoint before the boss fight. There were lot of tombstones and it was not clear whether they are to be used as chair or not. Extremely bad taste. Even though they were not a real graves, I felt uneasy sitting on them so I decided to take rest while standing. Since, my HP and stamina had not been consumed, I didn't use anything. Ryu and Rin recovered their HP using potions while standing. It seemed like that they too felt uneasy sitting on tombstones.

I was thinking about boss-fight which will happen soon. Bome Spider. A huge spider made of bones. Like normal spiders it did not spit web but it can summon skeletons which make it a tough opponent to beat.

“Ano.....”

Before I knew, Rin came to me and stared at my face. I was surprised by this and gave some funny reaction

“I’m sorry for surprising you like this.....”

“N.. no, what happened? ”

“Ano.. a little while ago. Sorry for holding you back and Thank you for Protecting me. ”

Rin’s eyes became moistened and she bowed. Ah... sometimes being in a party does restrict your growth but I felt troubled on how to react while being apologized in this manner.

“Hah.... You don’t have to worry about it. And besides a party members are meant to help each other.”

When I said so, she seemed to be moved and bowed again. I lightly hit her head with pompon.

「Don't relax your guard. Although at your level instant death would be rare a case, but still just in case be firm and wise and you won't be killed instantly. Even if I am at high-level, I may not necessarily be able to protect you all the time. Move as I explained a while ago」

“”hai””

I had explained the strategy to attack and how to confront the Bone Spider to two of them who finished recovering, and headed towards the boss area. After walking for a while, we came across a large open pit. This was the entrance to the boss area. Though It was written on bulletin board that jumping in would not give any damage but it still takes quite a courage to jump down. Chilly air was leaking out of the hole and it was pitch black inside, so I couldn't see the insides clearly. Without saying anything, I nod towards both of them and jumped down resolutely. I reached the bottom. Although I felt disgusted by remembering that bug, but I endured it somehow.

I was ready for a crash landing, but surprisingly there was no crash impact after landing on the ground. I saw that both of them were also descending slowly. I guess when descending at that speed and manner, most of the impact would be absorbed.

The inside of the hole was quite large. It was surrounded by a wall of rugged brown rock spread in a circular shape. We seem to have landed down in the center.

I brandished my weapon and took a stance so that I can counter enemy attack from any direction. Both of them got off, took out their weapon and were careful of their surroundings.

「.....」

The hands of the bone were growing from ground surrounding us simultaneously except the place where we were standing. Ground swelled, and a large amount/quantity of skeleton creeped out in large numbers Rin and Ryu became stiff and strengthened their guard.

All of the skeletons which creeped out of the ground turned toward us. Many hollow eyes were looking at us. Caracalla. A skeleton pointed it's finger at us and started laughing. It's not a laugh but sound of dry carcass. Other skeletons also started pointing and laughing at us.

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A dry sound echoes through the hole. The sight of laughing skeletons was creepy and eerie... I think that if one was careless then it may also become a trauma Rin was trembling and clinging to Ryu.

Suddenly, the laughter stopped. When I noticed, skeletons were not pointing at us but above us. When I slowly looked up I saw a huge spider made of bones stuck to the roof. It thrust against the roof and landed on the ground. All skeletons were gazing at the spider. In the next moment, giant spider leaped toward the group of skeletons. Skeletons which were caught in its leg were done away. Spider started eating skeletons while making crunching sound. Spider ignored us and was tormenting all the skeleton in the hole. When it ate all skeletons, the size of spider became more than twice the original size.

Was this Bone Spider? Throughout its body there were skull and hands of bone. It was huge aggregation of ill-shaped bones.

The Vaughan Spider, which was disregarding us earlier, suddenly turned to us, It shouted [kishaaaa] in a low voice.

Here it comes!

Chapter 32

The Bone Spider moved to attack us at a terrifying speed using all of its eight legs. I evaded the attack by moving sideways. I cut the rear of the spider using <<Void Slash>> and a transparent slash cut the spider's peculiar b*****s(rear) off. The HP of the spider did not decrease by much. Even if given at my level and the fact that I used <<Void Slash>>, there wasn't much damage. Though the Bone spider had a comparatively strong defense, but it looks like my <<Void Slash>> wasn't strong enough for boss level monsters.

The Bone Spider stood up on its four legs and looked back.

The Bone Spider jumped on us just as it is to crush us. Using <<Step>> we jumped backwards and evaded it. As for the attack, when it fell down, a great shock wave was released in the surroundings. Naturally, Bone Spider received some damage itself when it fell down so it could not attack soon hence I waited for the shock wave to disappear. As the Bone Spider wouldn't be able to move for a while, so it's our the best chance to attack it. We approach it in a dash and attacked it at same time using respective skills.

“<<Force Slash>>”

“<<Tri Stab>>”

“<<Heavy Swing>>”

My quadruple, Rin's Tri stab and Ryuu's new skill – “Heavy

Swing” simultaneously hammered onto the Bone Spider’s face. We were able to reduce its HP by 30% at a stretch. It was written on the bulletin board that the Bone Spider would not be able to move once it uses its skill. So, we retreated as soon as the attack was over. A few seconds later, the Bone Spider straightened up and vigorously attacked with its sickle-like chelicera at the spot where we were a while go. Chelicera were the 2 fang-like things you see on a spider’s mouth. If someone got caught in that huge scissor-mouth then there would no escape. It’s important to gather information after all.

Shaaaa The moment the Bone Spider shrieked while shaking his chelicera, about 10 skeletons came out from under the ground. Indeed. It’s difficult to fight both Bone spiders and skeletons at the same time. It would have been difficult for Ryu and Rin alone, but since I was here so there wasn’t any problem. I quickly eliminate the emerging skeletons using <<Void Slash>>.

“It feels like cheating already.”

Ryu who saw it smiled wryly. It was no such thing to that degree. If it were the lead group then it would be easy for them.

The Bone Spider started to move again. It was a Charge attack. We split to left and right to avoid the attack.

“Huh!”

The Bone Spider did not stop after doing this once. It vigorously turned back and charged again. Rin was its target. I became stiff

due to astonishment. Shit! I instructed them beforehand to be careful because charging attack would not be over after one time.

Ryuu ran at the same time I shouted at her to avoid it. He tried to intercept the Bone Spider in the middle of its charge by pushing away Rin with all his strength and placed himself in front of it while holding his axe. Too rash. At your level, it's impossible to face the charge of such thing from the front.

I clicked my tongue and dashed with everything I had. I am pretty confident of the speed that I had trained in "Bloody Forest". However, I could not make it in time. Ryuu used <<Heavy Swing>> and swung his axe downwards onto the face of Bone Spider. As his axe struck the head of Bone Spider, at the same time Ryuu got blown away by its charge. After flying in the air not knowing for how many meters, finally after a few seconds he dropped and tumbled on the ground. Ryuu's HP was decreasing at an alarming rate. Even though he won't die thanks to <<Vitality>>, but the sensation of pain in this world was almost same as the real world. Ryuu dropped down dead tired. He may not be able to move for a while, Shit! isn't this same as the previous boss fight!?

I rushed to Ryuu and picked him up. It seems that he still hasn't lost his consciousness. He somehow managed to hold on.

"Ryuu quickly drink the potion!"

"Yes..... Sorry....."

Ryuu who forced a smile while having a pained expression took

out a potion from item box and slowly swallowed. HP was restored into the safe zone. It's safe for the time being. The pain would not disappear instantly, but he should be able to recover himself in few minutes.

Rin came running towards us while looking ghastly pale and having tears in her eyes.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry……. Forgive me Onii-chan…….”

She thought that Ryu was killed by that single blow. After knowing that he was alive, she felt relieved but then began shedding tears……. It was impossible to fight like this anymore. It can't be helped. Looks like I have to tell them to fall back and defeat the boss myself huh?

“Both of you, fall back. I will defeat that thing.”

“Please wait…….”

Just as I was going towards the Bone Spider. When I looked back, he(Ryu) already stood up and his facial expression seemed to be quite comfortable too.

“We will also fight. There would be no meaning if we leave everything to Akatsuki-san only.”

“Let us fight!”

Rin and Ryu said so with a serious expression. I don't have any reason to not let them fight.

“Understood. Act as discussed during the briefing.”

When I said so, both of them broke into a joyful expression for an instance and returned to serious look again.

From here on, our attack was excellent. While avoiding the charge and pressing attacks of Bone spider, whenever we got an opportunity, we would go all out with our attacks. Since I knocked down the immediately created skeletons so there weren't any problems. The Bone Spider crawled up the wall and the came right above us and rocked his body shudderingly.

Then a large number of bones fell off from its body. His body was getting smaller, however, it's not a problem.

We avoid the falling bones. If I am not mistaken, the bones would form into huge Skeleton which was bigger than normal ones. The bone stuck together and transformed into three big Skeletons. Two of them were cleared up by <<Force Slash>> and a remaining skeleton was defeated by Rin and Ryu using a combo of <<Tri Stab>> and <<Force Swing>>.

When the Skeletons were finished, the Bone Spider which became smaller than usual suddenly fell down. It was written on the Bulletin Board that some members of Lead Group became the prey of this sudden fall. Of course, we avoided it since we knew

about this. The Bone Spiders HP reduced by 10% due to rebound by the floor. The scattered fragments of the Skeletons fly around.

“Let’s end this!!”

Together, we gave one last blow to the immovable Bone Spider. With that, the Bone Spider’s HP became zero. The Bone Spider’s trembled while giving out a scream and its bone fell around itself. In the end, they were only ordinary bones and model has disappeared. The bones which were scattered became grains and disappeared.

Chapter 33

Name: Ryuu

Lv.29

Weapon: Axe 『Rex Axe』

Skill: 《Step》《Jump》《Forsake》《Detection》《Stealth》《Helm Splitter》《Full Swing》《Force Swing》《Vitality》《Heavy Swing》

Title: 【Low Grade Axe User】

Strength: 123

Agility: 100

Endurance: 58

Stamina: 94

Dexterity: 57

Name: Rin

Lv.28

Weapon: Spear 『Woodpecker Spear』

Skill: 《Step》《Jump》《Forsake》《Detection》《Tri Stab》《Mow Down》《Vitality》

Title: 【Low Grade Spear User】

Strength: 101

Agility: 107

Endurance: 50

Stamina: 83

Dexterity: 110

After returning back to town, we celebrated at the Inn. We were discussing future plans while eating dishes which Rin had cooked.

“Both of you have levelled up considerably and I think this much would be enough for you to be invited to a Party. You could look for someone looking to Party in the Bulletin Board. Thank you for everything till now.”

“Thank You Very much.”

The two of them bow their head down together. As expected, I feel uneasy by being thanked in this way. While not minding about it, I return to taking a bite of shrimp tempura. The crispy texture on the surface was the best. I energetically eat the tail while putting some salt on it. The two of them were surprised after looking at me eat the tail. The tail was usually left behind while eating. The Tail was delicious you know.

“What will Akatsuki-san do from now on?”

“Well, I would go to a high-level area for now and also look for my imouto too.”

“Is that so....? Please be careful.....”

“Yes”

Even if I said high-level area, I intend to go till eighth area only. While checking the strength of the monster's, I would search for Shiori. She wouldn't be in low-level areas like 《Wild Forest》 or 《Dino Jungle》. I should aim for more higher levels. But even if she's alive, I don't know what I would do or say after meeting her. I do hold some grudge about being abandoned. I don't need to worry about such things before actually meeting her. I can think of what to say after I meet her.

Afterwards, we returned to our own rooms, took a shower and hit the bed.

By the way, the dishes which were served today were a large number of Tempura dishes starting with Shrimp Tempura as well as dried bonito, seasoned boiled bamboo shoots and miso soup. The Crab tempura was soft and sweet and squid tempura had good texture and was very juicy.

The fried eggplant was soaked in soy sauce. The texture and crunchiness of the boiled bamboo dish were the best. The numerous eggplants in the miso soup were very soft, juicy and delicious.

“Hah...”

With this, the Party with two of them was finished from today? I was thinking about Ryu and Rin while laying on Bed. To be honest, it's impossible for us to be in a Party like this all the time. I would like to go to the upper areas but I was worried about two of them. If they made a mistake like today then they would die..... Ryu was reliable and Rin was doing her best too but they could not survive with that alone. Since I am registered as a friend, I could talk to them anytime I want to. Therefore, I could immediately go to help them, but I would probably be late before I could even reach them. Even so, I have to look for Shiori.

I breathed out a sigh after tossing about in Bed. What should I do?

knock-knock

Someone knocked the door. Was it Ryu? When I gave permission to enter, the door slowly opened. It was Rin who came in. Rin came towards me while looking down. I who was lying down, got up and sat on the bed and urged Rin to sit on the bed.

“What happened?”

Since Rin was silent after sitting on the bed, I spoke out first.

“Aa..., Ano.....”

Rin hesitated while speaking.

“Could you always stay together with me.....?”

Rin looked at me with upturned and moistened eyes. Stop it. Don't say that. I have to go look for Shiori. Don't hold me back.

“For a long time, It's just been me and Onii-chan only. Therefore I would feel relieved if Akatsuki-san would be there too.....”

With that, Rin became silent again. Rin would always act tough in front of Ryu, however, It seems that she had this side of her too. But, I couldn't say yes to her. The reason was Shiori.

“I'm Sorry”

I hugged Rin and caressed her head. Her hair felt slightly wet. That reminds me, I often used to dry Shiori's hair with dryer when she was small. Rin seemed surprised at being hugged like this and trembled. Ara..... Though I hugged her because the atmosphere seemed so, but it looks like she didn't like it? I don't understand it well enough since I didn't have any experience with women before but It would be better to separate from her..... I tried to slowly separate from Rin who was in my embrace.

“Akatsuki-san.....”

“Oh!”

When I tried to separate from her, she embraced me and glued her body on mine. Ooh!!..... Was I allowed to hug you? So it was all good. I got a little impatient. Her face was buried in my chest. Although Rin was an eighth grader, still my heart was skipped a beat. No, It's not like I am a lolicon. Then I hugged Rin while stroking her head for a while. The sweet fragrance of her hair made my heart pound. I wonder why all girls smell so good. Shiori did too. I doubt that any man could smell this good. It was said that a girl's body was soft, It's certainly true. I guess body of a man was hard because of muscles. Rin's body seemed soft as a pillow. I unconsciously grab hold of her stomach skin?

muni-muni

“Hiyaa!”

Rin leaked out a shriek. Wait! It seemed interesting, so I did it again.

“Hiyaa!”

“muni-muni”

“Uhyahaha!”

“muni-muni”

“Hwaah!”

After doing this for a while, the Ryu who came to check how things were going found out about this and became angry. He was just giving a smile, which didn't seem like a smile. It was very scary.

Chapter 34

The Next day.

On Rin's suggestions, I decided to relax myself and take it slow for today. I had been fighting in the capture area all the time recently. I guess, It wouldn't be bad to take a little rest for a while. Tomorrow, after parting with two of them, I went to a different area.

After having eaten natto miso soup, rice and fried egg that Rin made for breakfast, we decided to go for shopping to the city together. It was decided that the menu of today's dinner would be left to Rin. For a long time, I have been asking her to make Japanese food. It would have been a bad thing to say if they liked western-food. I handed over 300,000 tails to Rin for meals. She replied that she doesn't need such things while panicking. But I forced her to take it. They didn't have any money problems but its a substitute for a farewell gift.

First of all, we decided to buy armor and weapons for both of them in the town. We entered a big blacksmith shop which was run by a player. The two decided to make armor with material obtained in the <<Undead Carnival>>.

Blacksmithing is quite complicated. Even if one uses same material to make same thing, it's not necessary that it would be same as other player. The higher the skill of the player, the better is the quality but what kind of thing would be made depends upon luck. From common armor which even an amateur could make to an extremely rare armor in this world, all depend's on one's luck.

First was Ryu :

Skeleton's bone x10

Skeleton's skull x10

Skeleton's arm x10

Cloth of Ghost x10

Skull of Bone Knight x2

Piece of Bone Knight's armor x4

Cursed Bone's of Large Bone spider x4

Chelicera of the large bone spider x1

We handed over these materials to the staff of the blacksmith shop to make armor and weapons. It seemed that it would take about hour to complete. It looks like the time it takes for blacksmiths would vary depending on their skill and rareness of the weapon and armor being made.

Next was Rin's turn :

Skeleton's skull x10

Skeleton's arm x4

Bone warrior's collarbone x4

Bone Knight's skull x2

Ghosts's tears x1

Large Bone Spider's Cursed Bone x3

Large Bone Spider's Skull x1

Large Bone Spider's Chelicera x1

We handed these over to the blacksmiths. This too would take around 1 hour. Two hours in total. Seem's ok. We left the blacksmith shop and decided to buy other things.

By the way, the Ghost's tear which Rin had, was an extremely Rare Item (Rare Rare item). I too had 4.....

I would go to some item shop which were run by an NPC, sell unnecessary items and restock on consumable items such potions. The Items sold in the shops increases with the development of area. I saw on the Bulletin Board that something like enhanced versions of Potions were currently on sale in the upper area. I'm excited about how does the new item work. I decided to buy Life Candy and Stamina Candy which tend to recover HP and stamina little by little when used.

After that, we went to the store where cooking items were sold and had Rin buy ingredients for today's dinner. We decided to go to a nearby restaurant opened by a player.

The restaurant looked similar to a family restaurant and interior looked like it too. We were guided by a waiter towards the seat and choose a dish from menu. Ryu ordered Tyranno Steak-grilled meat of the boss of second area ,rice and drinks form drink-bar.

Rin ordered Hungry Salad-a salad made from the leaves of boss of first area and Bloody Pasta – a Pasta that utilized the blood of the zombie corpse from this area and drinks. Ryu's order aside, Rin's order were..... can she really eat something made of hungry tree and zombie..... shouldn't parts of a dead body be used to make amours rather than as ingredients in a dish . Although I thought like that, but I myself loved these kind of strange dishes. I ordered bloody zombie steak – flesh of a zombie corpse as well as hungry salad, same as Rin, and drinks from drink bar.

pin-pom I called out the waiter whose name I don't know with the call bell. "Somehow the word reservation appeared in my head" or so Ryu said but I ignored him. Reservation policy is a pretty old thing but looks like he knows it well...

I poured myself a drink from the drink bar before the dish was served.

"What's that....."

In the drink bar, there were familiar drinks such as cola and orange juice and unfamiliar drinks such as lucky juice and polo juice. I thought of eating the fruit that I brought from forest with juice, so I tried out lucky juice as a test. A yellow liquid was poured out in the cup. By the way, Ryu had orange juice and Rin had poroporo juice. There were times when Ryu seemed cool and sometimes childish..... sort of cute.... No, I am not a shotacon.

We returned to our tables, made a toast and drank our juice.

“Ahh”

This was a new taste. What a bittersweet flavour, even so it easily slips down the throat.

At the same time, It feels as if my body was being filled with power.

“Lucky juice was a juice made of seven luck fruits. If you eat 7 luck fruit and the status rises temporarily.”

Ryuu informed us..... Why were you drinking while holding the mug with both of your hands. Are you a kid....? he looked pretty cute. Not that , now I see. Is it because my status rose that I feel my body overflowing with power?

“Rin are you drinking poroporo juice?”

Rin was drinking a light blue drink.

“Uh huh. It’s made of Tears of Brachion. It’s an ingredient extracted from the monster in the second area called Brachion.”

I see. Tears. What kind of taste it would be?

“Rin can I have a sip?”

“Huh?”

As it looked delicious, when I asked her to let me have a sip, she seemed somewhat taken a back. No, well since I still had my lucky juice, it would have been troublesome to buy one therefore I wanted a sip.....

“Was it bad?”

“It’s not that I don’t want to particularly but.....”

Rin said something in a low grumbling voice with her head looking downwards while passing over the mug to me.

“Thank You”

Now let’s have a sip.... What’s this....? It tasted like Sports drink with added mild sweetness. However, the aftertaste was refreshing. Pretty good. It felt like my body became lighter.

“Yes. You can move faster after drinking it.”

I see.

I thanked her once again while returning the mug back to Rin. Rin looked at the cup with hesitation and embarrassment for a while, but then made an expression like she had given up and drank the poroporo juice.....This reaction seemed similar to the

event of indirect kiss of a heroine in a gal game I played long time ago..... Even though she became embarrassed and raised strange voices during yesterday's affair she did not stop me. No way. It's impossible to be able to raise a flag with my actions.....

After a while, the dish we ordered was served. Mine and Rin's steak was making a sizzling sound while being carried over. There was a bright red thick liquid poured on top of my zombie steak. "Itadakimasu" after saying so, three of us took a bite. human steak, has a peculiar chewy texture to it. and that blood on it, it's tomato flavored. so that zombie is tomato flavored huh....The Hungry Salad was crunchy and delicious. Fumu..... I would like to have some Tyranno Steak and pasta as well.

"Ryuu, Rin, let's exchange our food"

I cut two mouthful of steak and offered them an exchange. Ryuu nodded and cut a mouthful of Tyranno Steak and gave it to me. Spicy taste. Both pig and cow meat were different, the meat was quite thick and difficult to bite off. I gave him my human flesh steak as thanks. Next was the pasta. Rin please give me some.

"eehh!"

Rin's face was as red as what one would usually see in an eroge. If it was a prevalent thick-headed main character, he would probably say things like "Your face looks red. Are you ok?". Since I was hikikomori who had no experience with women. I had no experience of making girls falling in love just by being gentle towards them. To such considerate me, if she must be falling in love with me then I would be bothered and embarrassed you know.

Was this an eroge? I don't know anymore..... I just told her earlier to don't be bothered about this. As one would expect of a young girl who never had indirect kiss. Uwaa, I really couldn't handle women like these. Maa, It's because I was a hikikomori that's why..... sorry since I lacked delicacy, I tried to act as gentlemanly as possible and Rin held out fork wrapped with pasta for purpose of feeding me. I see. It really happened. Are you serious?

“Th-Thank You”

Though I said so, why I was being so nervous. I should Eat normally as I do. I gave up all thoughts and took the bite. It tasted like tomato. Oh, I should also give something to her.....

I held out Zombie Steak while saying ‘aah’. Rin opened her mouth wide open with her eyes closed. Oi, are you telling me to feed it it you..... since there was no helping it I fed her the steak. Then she took the meat pricked with fork into her mouth. Rin chewed it with fork stuck still on it. Seeing that I could not take out the fork out of Rin's mouth, Ryu gave a unbelievable smile. Why such a chaos.....

Two hours pass after such things happened. We go back to the weapons shop and receive the armor and weapons. I took out my money. Both of them tried to pay themselves as they felt bad, but I said that it's was as a thanks for the cooking and forcibly paid.

Ryu's armor was black with evil attached to its name hence 『Darkness Armor』 and weapon was 『Ghost Axe』. Rin's armor was red with Crimson attached to its name hence 『Crimson Armor』

and weapon was 『Undead Spear』 . Ryuu's armor had skill 『Confusion Resistance』and Rin's armor had 『Unyielding』. Rin's Crimson Armor seems to be much more superior.

“All right, should we walk back home while wandering around neighborhood”

We left the blacksmith shop and walked around the city while entering the shops without anything in mind and killing time just like that. When I got dark, we decided to head home.

When thinking about it later, we should have immediately returned home as soon we obtained the armor.

“Oh, excellent. I did not expect to see you.”

When I turned around to see who called me, it was the 《Spear Knight》 and his five party members that stood there.

“What do you want?”

I asked with a low threatening voice. I don't like him one bit.

“Well, I have a proposal for you.”

Then the 《Spear Knight》 said

“Enter my party”

Chapter 35

Honestly, I couldn't trust this guy. Though I am only one who thought this, but this man had a very bad personality.

When I was perplexed as to how to reply, Rin opened her mouth.

“Wasn't Akatsuki-san was looking for his Imouto? I think it would be easier to find her if you put a search request in Kokuu-san's guild”

“Imouto-san? Hmmm.... If that's the case then our guild 《Ouroboros》would be perfect as you can obtain a lot of information. Besides, I have a good standing in the guild... If you form a party with me then I would put up the request for you, so how about it? ”

This would make it easier to find Shiori.

This was an attractive offer. Although I don't know much, but《Ouroboros》should be a pretty big guild. It would be easier to find her in several ways, if I joined the guild then it would become convenient in many ways and I could get information which was more accurate than bulletin boards.

It could easily search for my imouto and also join the top guild which players yearn for. I could not think of any reason to refuse. But I don't want to work among so many people. Also, there would be some rules and restriction imposed by the guild.

Freedom or imouto, what should I choose?

Well, the answer was easy.

I chose Shiori.

“Ok, understood. Let me join your party. “

When I said that, Kokuu stretched out his hand while putting up a fake refreshing smile. He wanted to shake hands. But I don't hold it and continued speaking.

“Not only me, but I also want them to join too.”

Ryuu and Rin looked surprised when I said so. I heard them saying “why?” Well you see, even though it was a short friendship, but it was not that shallow that I would abandon them so easily.

“..... Unn. 《Ouroboros》always short on people. I also want these children to join us by all means. Etto, what are their names.”

“Ryuu and Rin.”

“I see, Ryuu-kun and Rin-Chan. I wonder if you both want to become my companion?”

When Kokuu talked to both of them, Ryu and Rin were looked at me as to ask for my opinion. I nodded.

「Yes! Please.」

After that, we registered as friends, and agreed to gather at the center of the town at nine o'clock tomorrow morning and went our own way.

After returning to hotel, I looked into those fellows while the dinner was being cooked.

Kokuu, also known as 《Lance Knight》.

He played an active role in the last event and was given a nickname (Title). It seemed that his appearance of defeating enemy by wielding the spear was very popular among girls and they always wished for such handsome man to protect them, hence his nickname《Lance Knight》. Although his second name《Comet》was derived from his finishing move《Comet Impact》, he was better known as his nickname《Lance Knight》due to the female players.

Member of guild 《Ouroboros》. After joining the guild, his level increased at an unbelievable rate and was now said to be a candidate for Executive position in《Ouroboros》.

His combo of 《Beehive》and 《Comet》 was very powerful.

He defeated title holder 《Dog Knight》 belonging to guild 《Azure sword》 in an inter-Guild event.

“Should I check up on 《Azure sword》 just in case?”

《Azure sword》. The top three brass such a big guild were Title Holders. There were two sub-masters.

The guild master was Ruri. Nickname was also 《Ruri》. The sub-master was Ken Dog, also known as 《Dog Knight》 and the other sub-master was haraa-san, also known as 《Flabby》.

Ruri was the founder. It was unknown when the guild was formed but 《Ruri》,《Dog Knight》 and 《Flabby》 were powerful people in the clearing group.

“They have nothing to do with this. Now should I investigate about《Ouroboros》?”

《Ouroboros》. It was comparable to a big guild like 《Shining Light》. The guild master was Kiryuu, nickname 《Hydra》. And the sub-master is 《Perfect Wall》. Their nicknames were unknown since they didn't participate in any event.

Kiryuu established it about three months after the game started. There were lot of players of《Ouroboros》in the clearing group. There were more than 10 people including title holders like guild master Kiryuu《Epicenter》, guild executive《Head Reaper》and

Executive Candidate《Lance Knight》. They often fought against the PK guild《Ghoul》but there was no conclusion to it till now.

Since《Ouroboros》was a big guild then I could trust it. However, not all guild members would be trustworthy. I don't know whether Kokuu is a good guy or not.

One should not trust their companions so easily. If one relaxes too much in this world, then there would be no tomorrow.

After investigating, I found that Kokuu was famous and didn't seem suspicious... I guess so.....

Ah well. Normally I wouldn't join《Ouroboros》.The only thing that I need was the information on Shiori and quickly get out of here. I don't like working in groups. Besides that I have to make sure that Ryuu and Rin be safe.

Maa, As Kokuu said, like this it would be helpful to find Shiori, so I would take advantage of it as much as I could.

“Dinner's ready”

I heard Rin's voice. Apparently it seemed she finished cooking. Well, I guess I should investigate more after eating dinner? It's no longer a farewell party.

I'm going to skip the story where Ryu and Rin (insistently) expressed their gratitude, which left me mentally tired.

Chapter 36

The next day, we gathered at the centre of the city and were discussing what we do now.

Before putting out an application to join <<Ouroboros>>, Kokuu first said that he would form a party with us and try to capture some area.

It was to gauge our abilities and whether we were cooperative and trustworthy.

Judging by our levels, the area he chose was the Sixth area's clearing zone <<Worm Forest>>. Sixth area instead of Fifth. recommended level was 29-35. Ryuu and Rin had the required level. Although their levels were sufficient, but just barely. They would die instantly if they were careless.

I suggested Kokuu to go to Fifth area instead of Sixth, but he rejected by saying "Nothing bad would happen since we are here and besides Fifth area was too easy."

The words "fifth area was too easy" caught my attention so I asked him questions regarding how easy it was. It seemed that area would become a lot wider starting from the 6th area. To be precise, it took a whole day to grasp the area boss's location and clear the area. There were some spots to take rest on the way so we would rest there for a while before proceeding. There were many cave location similar to <<Bloody Forest>>.

We discussed what we were going to do and joined Kokuu's party. I should introduce the names and status of party members. I could see the status of the members to some extent.

Name: Kokuu [Party Leader]

Lv 63

Weapon: Spear『Inverted Spear/Karma』

Name: Kaniya [Sub Leader]

Lv 54

Weapon: Dual Swords『Dorcus Hopei』

Name: Smart

Lv 51

Weapon: One-handed Sword『Tears』, Shield『Stary eyes』

Name: Kakehi

Lv 50

Weapon: Axe『Barbarian's Axe』

Kokuu's level was exceptionally high. Other guys were Level 50 and above. Everyone seemed to have sufficient strength. With this lineup, we could easily clear <<Worm Forest>> while covering Ryuu and Rin.

Kaniya-san seemed to be someone in his twenties, with only distinct feature about him might be how short he was. Whenever he talked to me it ended up in the form of him looking up at me, which for some reason kinda ticked me off. How do I put this, but his face had a sorta smug look, the kind you'd find as an emoji.

Smart-san was similar to his name, thin. I thought that he was about the same age as Kaniya-san. His body was thin and tall. By the way, he was a man.

Takehi-san was a middle-aged man who wore glasses and head was a little bald. He was thin, not as much as Smart-san, but somewhat weak. His movements were twitchy and g*y-like which made me feel slightly unpleasant.

I called these three people with honorifics but didn't do so with Kokuu. Why? Because he was Ikemen!

Afterwards, we transferred to <<Worm Forest>> using warp gate.

The impression <<Worm Forest>> gave off was exactly Kaniya-san described it to be during the transfer.

As its name suggested, <<Warm Forest>> was an area where insects appeared. It was better to ready the recovery items beforehand since there were many monsters with poisonous and paralysis attribute in their attacks. Long ago, when Clearing group entered <<Warm Forest>>, It seemed that female players had a phobia of insects and became panicked due to which there were a lot of casualties.

Though it seemed as a story of a foolish person, but it would have been a dreadful thing for the person in question.

It seems that we have to fight the boss monster twice. The first time was against a huge human caterpillar. The Name was Creepy Worm. It looked like a huge caterpillar with a human face and two arms attached.

Pretty disgusting.....

Once knocked down, It would escape to innermost parts of the area and fight there. At that time, is is supposed to evolve from a caterpillar into a butterfly . The name would change to Creepy Butterfly. Huge human butterfly. We should be careful as it seems that It scatters scales from wings which would poison or paralyze us.

However, I don't need to worry about it since I have <<Poison Resistance>> and <<Paralysis Resistance>> skills.

By the way, Rin's face became very pale after hearing this. Not

only ghosts but you also dislike insects? Maa, I don't think there were many girls who were fond of insects.

Incidentally, I also hated insects. A long time ago, I tried to throw away a bug that was in my room with a tissue and flush it down the toilet but it got crushed when I used too much power, from that day on I didn't come to like bugs. I still couldn't forget the feeling of crushing its body.

.....

Would I really be alright with such a condition. I felt slightly uneasy.....

Chapter 37

Forest

An ordinary forest.

Several green leafy trees were growing which blocked the sunlight due to which it was dim inside the forest. It was similar to《Wild Forest》and《Bloody Forest》. It was same as the forest of the real world. But why? I felt sick from the moment I entered this forest. I got goosebumps on my skin in a way that it felt like something was crawling on my whole body.

The sound of leaves swaying in air felt unpleasant

My body did not accept this forest. Physiologically.

“This is.....”

Rin looked around the forest restlessly while looking pale and hugged her body with her own hands. Rin too felt something from the atmosphere of this forest.

No other party members seemed to feel anything except me and Rin. Ryu had his usual expressionless face, Kokku had a clear smile and the remaining three people had an ordinary expression.

.....

Rin exchanged looks with me, having a face saying「Really?」.

How come everyone else was fine.....? Something's strange here. I have a bad feeling.

“A little further ahead monsters would start coming out, so be careful.”

Kokku said this to three of us who entered this forest for the first time.

We advanced by cautiously stepping on the muddy ground while paying attention to the surroundings. 《Bloody Forest》 had tense and nervous atmosphere afloat but a disgusting atmosphere was drifting in this place. I didn't think much about the darkness in the 《Bloody Forest》, but the darkness here was creepy.

We avoided the vines running along the grounds and advanced while carefully stepping on the muddy ground.

“It's here”

Smart-san murmured while looking ahead. thud-thud A dragging like sound was getting close to us from the front. Everyone readied their weapons.

A huge centipede arrived in front of us. The HP bar and name

was floating above its head.

Dividing Centipede

A red-black thick, long body with orange-like tactile organs, pink-colored joints, dozens of slender legs and two sharp tail at the end.

It's moving with [shakashaka] sound. It's disgusting to see it moving its legs and approaching us while swaying its body.

“Hii.!!!” Rin too became pale.

“Careful, it would split!”

Dividing Centipede threw itself on Kakehi-san who was talking and leading the charge. Kakehi-san didn't flinch and swung his axe and cut the centipede. It's HP reduced to half —— No, it divided into two——!?

When looked at the centipede closely, its size became half and split into two. HP too became half of what it was in the beginning.

The divided centipedes raise up themselves and sprang up on Kokku and Kakehi-san. Both of them, without changing their expressions, dodged centipede's attack by bending their body sideways. To the body of centipedes which were full of openings, Kokku stabbed one with a spear and Kaekhi-san swung down his axe onto the other. The two attacks hit.

“Uoooo!?”

The centipedes split from 2 into 4 bodies, and one of it, now the quarter of its original size, slipped through the opening between Kokuu and Kakehi-san and was jumping at me. The centipede's gigantic mouth was approaching.

“Uoooo!?”

I reflexively struck tachi into centipede's mouth. Kuchu A disgusting feeling was transmitted through the tachi. My whole body got goosebumps. Centipede twisted and wriggled its body in suffering for a while till its HP became 0 and disappeared after becoming a grain of light. Apparently, It could only split into four. Remaining centipedes were also successfully knocked down by other party members. Kokuu pierced one of them, Kaniya-san cut one's face with 2 consecutive slashes and Ryu pulverized its head with the axe. The centipedes moved their legs in a bizarre way while wriggling in suffering and disappeared after becoming grains.

Centipedes life force was strong..... I endured the scene of other monsters suffering till they became grains of light and disappeared. Disgusting..... “Rin are you OK....?”

Ryu had worried look with his mouth agape while stroking the head of trembling Rin.

The centipede was very disgusting..... I could sympathize with

her.

This place was hell for me and Rin who hated insects.

Be it the case of me being blown away by their exploding bodies like a suicide bomber when their HP reduced to the red zone, or Rin making an uproar because of being covered by bodily fluids of huge caterpillar crawler after defeating it or me being entwined by a metal earthworm, It was indeed hell.

Still, I somehow managed to move while knocking them down. It's good that these monsters can be dealt with a single blow, though they looked very disgusting.

.....

“We'll soon be at Creepy Worm's place. Good luck both of you”

Kaniya-san said so to me and Rin while being exhausted. Creepy Worm.

Was it really a huge human caterpillar.....? I want to return already.....

All the party members including Ryu looked ok and calm, while only I and Rin looked dead tired. How could they remain so calm after looking at those insects?

“.....”

Kokuu stopped moving and readied his spear. I too stopped beside Kokuu and stood ready with vigilance. I got a response from the skill 《Detection》. Five monsters were approaching here from the front.

A huge mosquito with a harsh buzzing sound appeared. Its name was Giant Mosquito. Its mouth which it used to s**k blood was as big as a sword, one would easily die if it sucked their blood.

Giant Mosquito's movements were very agile and flew towards us with a zigzag pattern. It's fast, but too slow in comparison to dash attack of a fast horned rabbit. I haven't fought against any fast opponent recently. Should I brush up my battle senses a bit?

I rushed ahead of Kokku and others and approached the giant mosquito myself. The mosquitoes targeted me and altogether rushed at me while sticking out their sharp mouth.

I dodged the mouth of two mosquitoes from left and right while accidentally slashing the body of one of them. With only a single strike, its HP becomes 0 and it disappears. One down.

Then one sprang up to pierce my head with its mouth. I step back, avoided it while I grasped its mouth and stuck it into the ground then flung it towards the one behind my back. Both of them got blown away and fell to the ground. Then, I stabbed and skewered mosquitoes with tachi and knocked them down. Two left.

Becoming cautious after seeing their companions being killed, the Giant Mosquitoes stopped attacking and two of them started fly around me in the air as if to surround me.

A black shadow flew into my vision. At first, one of them plunged from the front at me. It's a feint. Thanks to «Foresight», I knew where the attack was coming from. The real one would be coming later, diagonally from behind.

“Yotto”

I nimbly jumped overhead the two of them in the air. Since the target has disappeared, Both of the giant mosquitoes get skewered by each others mouth. I dropped down there and sliced them with tachi. Their HP became 0.

Like this, they were finished.

When looking back at the party members, they looked at me with a shocked expression. What?

“Akatsuki, you, I thought about it during the match too, but your speed seems to be unusually high.....”

Kokuu commented with a stiff expression.

Well... While training in a cave, when you come across monsters

and have to constantly avoid their attacks, then you would be able to do this naturally.

Maa, I couldn't avoid Kokuu's thrusts when he used his skill though. Even after seeing everything with «Foresight», I wasn't able to do anything.

“Come on, Let's quickly defeat the human caterpillar and take a break.”

Chapter 38

Kokuu asked us in the resting spot just before the place where we would fight the Creepy Worm . It seems that he wanted to grasp all the skills of the party member could use to put together a strategy.

Ryuu and Rin answered to this question obediently, but I hid some skills and titles. If I told him that I have an Extremely Rare Skill then It would become troublesome in future, also 【Red Crest】 wasn't announced anywhere in the bulletin board so far. Besides, skills and titles were like lifelines in this world. Since I still didn't fully trust Kokuu and the others yet, I concealed《Paralysis Resistance》,《Poison Resistance》, 《Strong Vitality》and《Overlay slash》from him.

“Hmm? You still have 《Force Slash》?”

I too had been troubled about the problem Kokuu was referring to for a while. Normally, 《Force Slash》 should have been transformed into 《Fifth Slash》 when used to a certain extent.

I used it reluctantly in the caves of 《Bloody Forest》 and also used it quite often after escaping from there. Nevertheless, It still remained as 《Force Slash》. This was rather strange. Perhaps, my status might have been affected because of being dropped in the forest due to the bug.

.....Although I deceived Kokuu properly, but it really was quite serious matter. But If It wasn't only limited to skills and something happened during battle then it wouldn't be just a

laughing matter. Kokuu reconfirmed my skills but he seemed to be little wary of me now.

“Yoshi, Shall we get going then?!”

Kokuu said as he got up from the stump which was to be used as chair for sitting.

Creepy Worm — Human Caterpillar huh? I can take rest in in resting lounge after defeating this thing today. Judging from the the story, I guess it had extremely ugly appearance, but still let's defeat it quickly.

The air started feeling worse as we moved further away from the resting area. It's a strange way of speaking, but I have no other way to describe it. My whole body became itchy and a feeling stickiness enveloped my whole body.

Hah~. I want to leave quickly.

“This is the spot”

The location we had arrived was a circular place surrounded by a big trees. It was somewhat similar to the place where Guruvaijo appeared in the 《Bloody Forest》. Maa, that place was like an archaeological site. The place where boss appears was often circular. It's faintly resembles Rome's Colosseum. We were called players, and we were slave gladiators whose life have been stolen away. There is no choice but to fight to stay alive.

I examined the surroundings while thinking about such things in a corner of my head. Creepy Worm did not appear yet. Boss made a flashy appearance while entering so there's nothing to worry about something like surprise attack.....

After a while, a thud could be heard from somewhere. It gradually approached here.

The next moment, something huge crawled out from woods while knocking down a trees. A light brown squishy cylindrical body, with countless legs attached to its body, two huge arms that should have never existed and a big man's face having light brown skin, wide open yellowish eyes and and a huge mouth from which saliva was dripping down. It's Hair wasn't growing anywhere and head was bald.

Creepy Worm. It Indeed was a huge human face caterpillar as described in by Kokuu and others stories.

Creepy Worm(Human Caterpillar) opened its mouth after seeing us and gave out a shrill cry similar to a monster bird. Wind pressure attacked us. Ryu and Rin lowered their body to withstand the wind so as not to be blown away, but as expected, Kokuu and others calmly receive the wind. It was bad for the two of them, but wind pressure of such degree was nothing much for me too.

The Human Caterpillar raised its right hand. Its one of its attacking technique, crushing attack by the huge arm. We avoid

the attack by scattering. Human Caterpillar glared at Kakehi-san and Smart-san with its huge eyeballs who had moved to right and then attacked them with left hand this time. They easily dodged it.

Meanwhile, we sneaked around the Human Caterpillar and used our skills to hammer its defenseless flank.

Kokuu's 《Fifth Stab》, Kaniya-san's dual swords stabbed forth, just like an animal's fang – 《Twin Fangs》, Ryuu's 《Heavy Swing》, Rin's 《Tri Stab》 and my 《Force Slash》 sliced the Human Caterpillar squishy skin like a tofu.

Human Caterpillar's HP bar reduced by about 30% at a stretch. It screamed with a shrill voice while further distorting its ugly face, collapsed and writhed with pain. I naturally furrowed my eyebrows while looking at such disgusting appearance. What a disgusting feeling.

After a few seconds, Human Caterpillar scowled at us while looking angry as he got up with both of his hands. Then, using its arms and abdomen legs, it rushed towards us with tremendous momentum. It was pretty fast.

“Lets all go at once”

Kokku went around the sides of Human Caterpillar with a dash and invoked 《Comet Impact》. He thrust his spear which crashed into the Human Caterpillar's flank at high speed while being covered in blue light. Under normal circumstances, Kokuu who had plunged into the Human Caterpillar with rush should have

received damage too, he's at a high level indeed. The Human Caterpillar's huge body was blown away by《Comet Impact》.

Human Caterpillar flew/danced in the air while having a shocked expression and then fell onto the ground. Since It could not return to its original posture because it fell on its back, all of us attacked it all at once at the spot where it was struggling while trying to get up using its abdomen legs.

Kokuu used 《Beehive》 twice. Kaniya-san attacked with higher form of skill 《Twin Fangs》- 《Twin Fanged Beast》, Smart-san's 《Fifth Slash》, Ryu's 《Heavy Swing》, and Rin's 《Tri Stab》drove into it. I sneaked around and attacked with《Force Slash》towards it face.

The HP of Human Caterpillar decreased at a tremendous rate. The moments its HP fell into red zone, the human caterpillar rotated its body and returned to its original position, then slammed into the big trees with a frightening force. The Human Caterpillar escaped in the same way as it came.

There was one last battle with Human Caterpillar where it becomes an adult, but this boss round was over for now.

Chapter 39

A new path was created thanks to the human caterpillar knocking down all the trees in the way. While carefully evading the tree fragments, we made our way forward. We arrived at the resting place in about two minutes by foot. The sun was setting and sound of lot of insects could be heard from around us which made mine and Rin's heart beat faster. It seems that there were many nocturnal monsters. Fortunately, because the setting was in such way that no monster would appear on the way to resting area, we did not have to fight against any nocturnal monster.

There were more than ten stumps which were to be used as chairs and there were ten tents to stay in. It was made considerably larger than the previous one for players to stay in overnight. However, there were no players to be found. Actually, there was no one to be seen in the entire area. When I asked Kokuu, I found out that this area was unpopular when compared to the <<Undead Carnival>>. Well, I guess I will go along with it. But I have to say, it is quite creepy that rotten corpses are more popular than the hive of insects.

Since there were a lot of tents, we decided to use it appropriately. After a little break, the party gathered at the centre of the resting area for dinner.

I decided to build a fire using the items kokuu had such as firewood and firestones. Everyone sat around the fire. Dinner was meat that Kokuu got from a monster which he defeated somewhere in the area. I decided to roast and eat it. And the drink was barley tea.

Just like in anime and mangas, the huge meat seemed soft with bones sticking out from both its ends. We cooked it with the fire until we confirmed that it was finely cooked.

I took a bite off the meat with a Gui sound and chewed it in my mouth. Every time I chewed it, a lot of meaty juice gushed into my mouth. It had a wild taste different from beef, pork and chicken. Because the taste of food in this world used real taste data, there should be a meat that tastes the same in reality, but this is the first time I ate such a meat. Rin and Ryu also seem to enjoy the meat.

I removed the oily taste by drinking barley tea and I talked to Kokuu who sat diagonally from me while eating the meat elegantly..... I tried not watch as I saw Kakeshi-san eating meat with an indescribable face as the juice dripped from his mouth.

“What kind of guild is the << Ouroboros>> that Kokuu belongs to? I once checked it on the bulletin board. ”

I started talking as Kokuu took out a white handkerchief from somewhere and wiped his mouth.

“What kind of..... Well... The current Guild Master of the<<Ouroboros>> was one of the strongest player candidates along with <<Storm Emperor>> and <<Meteor>>”

“Certainly, Kuryuu-san was《Epicentre》 right?”

“Well, Kuryruu-san is surely an amazing person, it has only been a few months since this game started and <<Ouroboros>> and <<Shining Light>> started at the same time. But then, it grew with an unstoppable momentum. At first, we came second at the first event and the second time we came first.”

As Kokuu spoke passionately about his guild master Kyuruu, a look of yearning could be seen in his eyes mixed with admiration. A tremor ran down my spine.

” Kuryuu-san isn’t the only amazing person, but all the top brass is amazing. The top brass consists of seven people. They are nicknamed <<Dragon’s Fang>>, <<Dragon’s Claw>>, <<Dragon’s Wing>>, <<Dragon’s Eye>>, <<Dragon’s Arm>>, <<Dragon’s Foot>>, <<Dragon’s Tail>>. The title of <<Dragon’s Foot>> is still available. So, that is my aim for now. By the way, the top brass and the sub master are different.”

“Wow!”

It really was quite confusing. But it seemed quite steady and it might be okay to leave Ryuu and Rin here. I plan to get out soon so I don’t care much about all these top brasses.

After the meal, Kokuu went into the forest to get some materials he wanted. These were the materials that could only be obtained from nocturnal monsters. Kaniya-san and the others retreated into their tents leaving me with Ryuu and Rin in front of the bonfire.

Ryuu wiped the grease off the Rin’s mouth. A red-faced Rin

yelled as she hit Ryu on his chest. It was a pleasant sight. My cheeks also loosened. When we were kids I also used to wipe the sauce off the Shiroi's face the same way and her face would also turn red.

—What is Shiori doing right now, I wonder?

Honestly, I don't know how I feel about Shiori right now. The feelings of apologizing for what happened in the real world and the resentment for being abandoned are mixed together. I don't know what to do. But, I have a feeling that I would find an answer if I meet her. It's just an intuition though.

“You guys are really close”

Looks like my thoughts leaked from my mouth. The two of them stopped playing and looked at me.

“Ryu..... You only act like a big brother at unreliable times like these!”

Rin pushed Ryu, who was sitting next to her, lightly and, moved to sit next to me. Ryu tried to sit next to her but Rin stuck her tongue out along with a “breee..” sound. Ryu smiled and sat down next to me instead.

“Is that so? But Ryu seems quite reliable though?”

“That's not true. When we were in the real world.....”

After that, for about thirty minutes, Rin told stories that told the truth about Ryuu. Seriously!? You mistook cold medicine for laxatives and drank it?

“But Ryuu’s my one and only onii-chan..”

When Rin said so with an embarrassed face, my chest hurt. I remember a similar thing that Shiroi said long ago. Shiori’s face at that time floated in my head and I felt like my chest was tightening. To shake the feeling of, I looked at Ryuu who heard Rin’s dialogue. At that time, Ryuu screamed as he fell backwards from his chair.

I saw it.

I saw it.

A blade sticking out of Ryuu’s left side of his chest.

Ryuu’s HP dropped to zero.

“Suzu....., Please....”

Ryuu’s figure turned into grains of light and disappeared.

Side Story from Ryuu's PoV (Point of View)

We were given《Dream》for our birthday and as soon as the 《Blade Online》started, me and my sister started playing the game.

It was impossible to escape the game before clearing, without knowing we were put up in a prison.

When playing games, we both took out IGN names from our real names, Me, Ryuu from [Ryuunosuke] and my sister [Rin from \[Suzu\]](#). We thought that we would only use these name while playing games. However, in this world the name Asada “Ryuunosuke” is not known to anyone and the player named “Ryuu” became my sole identity. I guess that was same for everyone. Whenever I cut down a monster with the axe, I actually felt like being Ryuu. I don't know how to explain this, but this feeling of losing something important was unpleasant.

(TL: SUZU AND RIN, BOTH HAVE SAME MEANING, i.e. BELL)

Since we were children, nobody noticed us and we were at loss as to what should we do, but it was Taka-san who picked us up. He was a person with such atmosphere that you would feel calm by just being together with him. Taka-san gathered all the children players, formed a guild, raised our levels safely by defeating low-level monsters. We defeated our first area's boss without any victims, made new armour and advanced to the next area 《Dinosaur Jungle》. We were raising our levels in the similar way and all was going well. Even timid Rin used to come and laugh together with us, I really thought that it was possible to live peacefully even in such a place.

The boss of the 《Dinosaur Jungle》looked like a Tyrannosaurus and was also called the Double Headed Rex. By following Taka-san's instructions, we defeated the boss after a long time. Next day, we were excited by new weapons which were obtained, and we tested our new weapons until in the area till sunset. The scene of that day is still etched into my memory.

Suddenly there appeared a spear which pierced through the chest of taka-san. Unfortunately, that spear aimed at the vital point and Taka-san died immediately. HP bar emptied in a flash. Taka-san looked at the thing growing out of his chest with his eyes wide open making expression like he couldn't believe this, and then turned into grains of light and disappeared just like that. A person died just like that. He simply turned into grains of light. It easily looked identical to the death of a monster. He disappeared without leaving a trace. This world was not real after all, and I am Ryuu.

While everyone was stunned, I only thought of saving Rin. I noticed a man approaching behind Rin's back, and I attack him with《Full Swing》. It seemed that he did not expect any resistance, and he screamed while holding down his right-hand which had received the attack. The pain experienced was similar as it was in the real world. I gripped Rin's hand, pushed the man away and started running. Rin was still looking back and was not able to accept Taka-san's death. I took out warp rope out of the item box. I was telling Rin to use it, but she did not use it and was saying that her friends are still here. Men's voices were approaching us from behind. Everybody were not unreasonable and stupid as Rin and told her to use 'Warp Rope' to escape. Rin didn't look convinced but when she saw that the men brought out their weapons, she took out the Warp Rope.

「Ryuu, hold my hand」

After using warp gate, Rin while being covered in green light stretched her hand towards me. The Usual confident Rin looked very weak at that moment.

「Yes..」

I grasped Rin's hand, and were completely wrapped in the light. The place we were heading to was 《Golem Mountain》 which was next to 《Dinosaur Jungle》. I just wanted to escape from this area quickly where PK players resided.

After that when we opened our eyes, we were in a strange town. There were many shops opened by NPC players compared to previous areas and players were still strolling even though it was night time. The scale of advancement of the city seemed to grow more as we move to more interior area of the town. While thinking so, I looked up to the mountain made of big boulders near the town.

We decided to stay at the closest inn. After taking the shower, since we didn't have anything to do, so we decided to sleep. I asked Rin whether she want to report those PKs, because in order to do so you must at least know the name of those PK players. Why was it like this? I knew that I can't trust the management of this game from the first day.

I removed my armour and weapons and went to bed. When I closed my eyes, scene of Taka-san keeps playing back and due to

that I was not able to sleep. What happened to my friends? Are they alive? Though I said to Rin like that, but I think everyone was dead. Everyone was stunned at the sight of taka-san 's death, so I think that they could not possibly fight back and were killed.

「Ryuu,.. Could I sleep with you? 」

Before I could reply, Rin entered my bed. Rin too put her head onto the pillow. It turned into situation where we were facing each other. I thought that Rin had a beautiful face. If a stranger see us, won't he think of us as lovers?

「Taka-san died.. and everyone else too...」

Rin's looked strained and buried her face in my chest. My eyes were also moist, I blinked my eyes to stop the tears and endured it. I am Suzu's elder brother Ryuunosuke. Even though we were born at the same time, I am still the big brother. I can't be timid in front of my younger sister. Now, only I could protect her from harm.

「Your onii-chan.. Your onii-chan is not going anywhere. 」

I was tightly embraced by Rin.

「It's okay.. Because I will protect you forever. 」

Various kind of Golems were falling down. It's a freaking

Monster House. Shit! To think that there would be a trap in such a place.

I knock down the falling golems with the help of Rin, but it was useless, there were too many. What was happening? I decided to protect Rin, so why?

HP was gradually decreasing and number of monsters was not decreasing at all. It won't be long before we die just like Taka-san.

「I will support you.. Are you all right...? 」

Heaven had not abandoned us. Someone finally came to help us. He was wearing beginner's equipment and had a long sword, his appearance was lacking in common sense. But still, Golems were knocked down one after another. He jumped high in the sky and dashed toward us, and cut down the golem who was trying to attack us from behind. Rather than an Angel coming to save us, he gave an impression of a monster. Seeing him killing monsters was pleasant to my eyes. Did this person completely adapted to his other self? I will soon completely become Ryu out of Ryuunosuke. Will I become like him, If I did so? It was bit fascinating, but scary.

Because I have to protect Rin.

Current me possibly can't protect Rin. This person's strength may help us.

「No..... Because it is a natural thing to helps each other」

He gave a refreshing smile to us, who were expressing their gratitude. His expression completely changed from before and became that of a gentle person. If it is this person, then he may protect Rin. I thought that it was impudent and selfish, I still asked him. Please form a party with us.

I thought he would refuse, but he accepted it. Perhaps the impression I got of him earlier was wrong.

When we were talking, I understood that he was very much strong. There seemed to be some circumstances he was not willing to talk about, but everything else was good.

After defeating the Giant Golem, when we returned to the inn and Akatsuki-san seemed angry.

「Elder brothers were born to protect their younger sisters, that's why they are "Elder Brother". Younger sister getting Injured because of elder brother, what are you doing Ryu . Ryu should protect Rin firmly. 」

My thoughts were exactly same. Even though it was necessary to protect Rin, even I have to risk my life, but if couldn't even protect myself, then everything would have no meaning.

I understood that Akatsuki-san also had a younger sister. It seems that his Imouto-san was also here in this world. However, her whereabouts was unknown. When mentioning the word "Imouto", Akatsuki-san's eyes became turbid. However, I was not sure

because, the light went out immediately and eyes became jet black again. I wonder if something happened to his younger sister or something? But I hesitated to ask about it.

「If it's good, then will you eat my meal every day.」

Rin suddenly suggested something. I was unintentionally dumbfounded. Akatsuki-san had the same reaction too. However, to unite a party, it seemed typical. I was surprised. Because I was thinking of asking Akatsuki-san to party with us for a while, but Rin took the initiative.

Akatsuki-san seemed to be hesitating. I can't understand what the other person was thinking. Unless one was an Esper, nobody can understand what other was thinking, and for this person, his expression changes suddenly over time. I thought that he would refuse, but he agreed, although it was only until he captured the next area.

Even I thought that it is impudent. like a parasite. But we had to borrow someone's power to live in this world.

If it was Akatsuki-san, then he may look after Rin if something happened to me. Because, there would be nobody to take care of Rin If I died, then she would not be able to live. I don't know what am I thinking, but I feel like Akatsuki-san would help me.

It's all for the sake of protecting Rin. It's better to have a close relation with a strong person.

I would protect Rin. Even if it's not done by my own hands.

Chapter 40

What?

I don't understand. How? We were just talking normally until now. How did Ryu die? All of this is happening too rapidly. What is this? Wa~ What's this!?

Behind Ryu who disappeared as grains of light, the figure of a man holding a one-handed sword appeared. I don't know this man at all. He wasn't in Kokuu's party. Why?

“Oi oi oi oi oi oi oi oi!!! you're still able to move despite the paralysis, huh?? Now we lost the chance to kill the tachi user easily. Moreover, he's not paralyzed. Ooi Kaniyaaa!! I wonder if you made him drink the tea properly!??”

The man while making a wry face, called out Kaniya-san's name loudly. What's the meaning of this? Why did the man who killed Ryu call out Kaniya-san's name? Paralysis? After drinking the tea, how?

When I looked behind, Rin tumbled down from the chair and fell on ground. HP became discolored and showed state of paralysis. I rush towards her and shook her but I couldn't feel any sign of movements.

“Strange. I gave everyone the tea mixed with paralysis drug.”

Kaniya-san came out of the tents and answered the man. Smart-san and Kakehi-san too followed behind Kaniya-san.

“What’s the meaning of this, Kaniya-san?”

Kaniya-san ignored my question and draws out the twin swords on his back. Smart-san and Kakehi-san too draw out their weapons and took fighting stance against me.

“You guys, you can come out already!”

A man with one handed sword cried out loudly, and many men with weapons came out from surrounding forest of the resting area.

Wh-what’s this..... There was no reaction from «Infer». Even so, why?

“Too bad for you Tachi user but we are going to beat you to death.”

A man with one-handed sword jumps over here while licking his lips. Kaniya-san and men who appeared from forest slowly approached here. I am surrounded. There is no escape.

“Wh-, What are you guys doing! Why, Why Ryu! Why are you coming close!?”

I screamed towards the men and holding Rin but they only showed a filthy smile.

You're kidding, right? Are these guys going to PK us? Why? Stop Bullshitting. Why do you want to kill us?

That's right. If we go back to the using warp rope—.

“Things really don't go as one wishes to!”

When the one-handed swordsman joyfully screamed “something” happened. An unpleasant sensation ran over my whole body. At the next moment, the warp rope in my hand disappeared.

What's this. What on earth did you do!

“kuhahahahaha. fer someone liek meh who haz PK'd a whooole bunch, I have skill called «Lock on» which preventz anyone to escape uzing item fer a while. Kuhahahahaha!” (TL: It's a specialized PK skill which works well on player)

«Lock on»..... What's that..... I have never heard of such skill which can prevent warp rope from being used. Damn it.....

They are getting closer. I can't fight while holding Rin. What should I do now? How? How.....

“Akatsuki! Are you ok?!”

At that moment, Kokuu jumped out of forest. I knock down the men approaching us.

“Ko-Kokuu! Hey! These bastards! Ryuu..., Ryuu’s dead! Kaniya-san and others are your comrades right!”

“I saw many unknown men approaching resting area so I observed for a while!”

Though Kokuu is a disgusting guy but still his strength is the real deal. If we work together, then we might be able to escape.

Kokuu is quickly coming here. Together, we might able to take on all the surrounding opponents. While thinking about such things, I decided to put Rin down on the ground.

There’s a reaction from <<Foresight>> in front of me. Strange. Only Kokuu should be coming from that direction. While thinking so, I take a look at Kokuu.

—————Kokuu thrusts his spear towards me while floating a disgusting smile.

“Hii!”

I instantly activate step jump to right. The tip of spear grazed my

sides a bit. A little bit of HP scraped off.

“Huh..... You managed to doge it? You really are fast”

“Wh, Why? You... you too?”

Kokuu nods while putting up a smirk.

“That’s right. I am also one of their comrades. I put you in my party to PK you all”

“Saying that you belong to «Ouroboros», is that lie?”

“Nope. I am in «Ouroboros» but the guild I truly belong to is-”

No way. Kokku is, these guys are——

“«Bloody Eyes»”

My spine froze.

“«Bloody Eyes»”

A large-scale PK guild in equal standing with «Ghouls». Gathering of powerful people who are murderers and have fought against clearing group many times.

Impossible. I cannot win against them fighting normally. Moreover, there's Rin too. It's impossible to fight while protecting her.

“Although it is bad, please die for our experience value and item collection”

Kokuu thrusts his spear out towards me.

What should I do? What should I do?

The tip of spear is coming closer.

“uoooooooooooo!!!!”

I desperately use «Sky Walk» and flew up while holding Rin.

“Hah!”

Kokuu looks at me with amazement. «Sky Walk» was a Rare Skill. Indeed, they did not expect this. Other men too looked at me with surprise.

I jumped to the limits of my stamina above the forest and fell down into the trees. Not minding about the branches that scratched my whole body, I descended and laid Rin on the ground.

What should I do? If try to escape from forest while taking Rin just as it is then they will catch up to me. Even If it tried to escape to boss area or entrance of the forest, it's my first time coming here. I would surely get lost. Also, those guys seem to know about this forest's topography very well. Also, nocturnal monsters are loitering around too. Though I am not sure if I would able to escape myself but while carrying Rin, most likely—————.

“Akatsuki-san..... Please quickly run away.”

Rin said with a weak voice while opening here mouth a little. It seems that paralysis did not heal completely but she seems to have recovered to the degree that she is able to speak.

Rin told me to run away while shedding tears.

“.....”

I took out Paralysis antidote from item box and poured it into Rin's mouth. Rin choked painfully while drinking it but did mind it. HP bar returned to normal color. Paralysis seems to be removed. I grasp Rin's hand and let her stand up.

“Rin how many recovery and stamina drink do you have?”

“Eh?”

“Answer quickly”

“Ah, umm..... I have four recovery potions and three stamina drinks.”

I took out 6 recovery potions and 7 stamina drinks and hand them over to Rin

“Eh, ano~”

“I will deal with these guys somehow, you get away from here. Luckily enough you would be able to escape to entrance from this road and after some time would surely be able to reach the entrance. Also, I don't till how long they would be able to use «Lock On» again, but it's possible to use for them to use it immediately. Don't give up and do your best.”

“But Akatsuki-san”

“It's ok. I am the strongest Tachi-user. Rin's concern is unneeded. I will knock these guys down. Wait for me in the town.”

“But–”

“No buts! Quickly run”

I wiped Rin's tears with my hands and stroke her head.

I'm sorry. Ryu got killed because of me. If I had grip on myself then this would not have happened. Therefore, I will avenge Ryu.

Finally, I was able to squeeze Rin's side and made her go in the direction of town. Ryu is no longer here so I was able to do this. It felt good. (TL: I can report him right?)

I will probably die. I don't want to. To die. I am scared and want to run away even now but Ryu had asked me to take care of Rin. If I run away now, then it would be my end as a human being. Even though I am NEET, I still am a human being.

So, why don't I kill some of them?

Chapter 41

“To think that you would come back.”

I used a stamina drink to recover my stamina and came back to the resting area. It seems that Kokuu and others are still at resting area, talking about something. They are surprised to see me return back.

“Well, I forgot something here.”

Take a deep breath.

Fix your breath. Suppress your fears. Be sharp. Stay Focused.

I could be easily surrounded by the group and killed in no time. The game has just started now. I will move at full speed and continue to kill them by aiming at vital points. Though, I am not sure if I would be able to kill Kokuu and the man who killed Ryuu easily, but the level of the others is in 50s. My level is 61.

Remember the training in the forest.

Dodging the horn rabbit at lightning speed while slashing it and keep this repeating till its finished.

The time when I kept dodging shelled scorpion for whole day.

The time when I received a strong blow from the awakened bloody bear.

Those days when I continued training myself; alone in the forest everyday.

I was sent into the forest when I was Lv.1 and was able to escape alive from there. It's very easy to send these foolish guys flying.

Now then, shall I kill them?

If I survive then I will squeeze the sides of rin.

“Hee? What are you talking about?”

“Revengeeeeeeeeeee fooorrr Ryuuuuuuuu!!”

I lower my stance and jump with full force. I Instantly appear in front of the eyes of the man carrying dual swords and cut his neck with 《Draw Slash》. His HP became 0 with the blow. His body become grain of light and disappears while having a baffled look. The men around that guy were unable to understand how he was killed had same baffled look.

I slashed away at the face of the first man, he screamed and while staggering I kicked him towards four men next to him and minced them together by <<Forth Slash>>. At this point, the only people who can see me are Kokuu and the guy who killed Ryuu. Our eyes met. However, let's take care of this quickly before taking care of

them.

“《Overlay Slash》!!!!”

Dazzling silver light wraps up the tachi and glides in the darkness like a meteor shower. Surrounding men are swallowed, not being able to do anything and get minced by the blade storm. All this took 6 seconds. While it didn't kill those five men, but the pain in this world is equal to real word. The Men not able to bear the pain of being slain are rolling around the ground while writhing. They wouldn't be able to move for a while.

12 guys go down. There are 2 guys who are somehow able to stand up even after eating 《Overlay Slash》. About 18 people left.

I tried to attack continuously but it didn't go that way. Three men charged with their spear from 3 directions to stab me and restrict my movements. I don't like this.

《Reverberation》

The moment the spear pierced my body, I appeared behind one of the spear user. Because I disappeared suddenly, the spear-men pierced each other's body and screamed. But none of them are dead. I cut the neck of the spear user who was in front of me and left the remaining two people as it is. I did so because I can't afford to waste more of my time.

“《Twin Fangs・Behemoth》”

Two fangs covered in huge orange light fell to slash me from overhead. I jump aside using 《Step》 and avoid it. An enormous tusk is greatly pried the ground where the target dodged from.

Kaniya-san, no, Kaniya , started to attack 7 m away from me. His twin swords glowed orange.

“《Twin Fangs-Behemoth》. Higher form of 《Twin Fangs》. I thought it was just a stabbing skill but you could also attack from long range like this?”

“《Twin Fangs・Trampling Behemoth》”(TL: More Higher form)

The two huge fangs attacked consecutively. I jump back and evade the attack but the next fang attacks immediately. I use all 《Twin Fangs-Behemoth》and all my agility that I had trained to jump around and evade the attacks but then I lose balance due to fang aimed at my feet and fall down on the ground. There are two fangs.

“Ha!”

I set up my sword above myself and catch the two tusks. I almost got crushed but endured with all my strength till the skill stopped. As expected, HP has slightly decreased even though I didn't get hit directly. But this much is acceptable.

“Oiiii y'all!!!! Butcher that bastard!!!!!”

The one-handed swordsman who killed Ryu gave instructions and men rushed up with their weapons. I firmly grip my tachi and scream and charge. Kokuu and that man are like commander-in-chief and stay at the back because of which it's impossible for me to attack them. So there's no choice but to send these guys flying first.

“Tch.....”

I restrain those guys using 《Vacuum Slash》and fall back using 《Step》. My HP had already decreased more than 50% and dropped into the orange zone. I didn't receive any fatal injury but there are cuts all over my body and every time I move a sharp pains runs through me. I restored my HP and stamina using items time to time, but now all items are over. However as the opponents stamina reduces, they fall back, recover and fight again, so only two people have been defeated so far. My stamina is gradually reducing and it's not possible to run away since I am surrounded.

“Maa Maa Maaaaa, yoouuu have done quuiittee well for someone alllooonneee. I'll praaaze yoouuuu. I, Kedamaku-sama, aammm shhoocckkkeeedd.”

The one handed swordsman – Kedamaku looks at and speaks loudly and licks his lips. I can't afford to thrust against this thoroughly disgusting guy. HP is 40% and as for stamina, its little less than half. I will surely die. I will die as it is. However I am not afraid as I imagined myself to be. I felt weakness instead of fear.

“Oraaaa!!!”

“Crap”

One of the guys who got hit by 《Overlay Slash》 suddenly got up and swings his axe. I can't avoid it. This it then. The axe approaches slowly.

Ahh, I can suddenly see my whole life at this moment.

I'm sorry Ryuu.

Sorry Shiori

“Akira-san!”

Just before the axe could smash my head, something came in front. I tried to defend from axe with a spear but it broke down from middle and scoured Rin's head.

Rin collapsed and the HP bar above her head swiftly decreased. It went into the red zone and reduction stopped there.

“Rin!”

“Shit, This is——”

I slice the neck of the axe user and embrace the fallen Rin,

“Why...?”

“Ehehe..... I m sorry ?”

“Oraaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa we can kill bothz of em zogethr
noooowwww!!”

Rin

Rin

Rin

Rin

Something gooey spewed out from my body. The movement of the men who were going to kill us stopped. Apparently, It seems that 《Big Blue Bear's coercion》activated without my notice. The body of the men who's level are below mine stiffened and their movements stopped. Kokuu and Kedamaku didn't seem to receive 《Big Blue Bear's coercion》and were surprised to see their subordinates stopped moving.

“Uwaaaaaa!!!!”

I go past the men who couldn't move and approach towards forest woods to escape .

As long as I am not under abnormal condition even if I get injured, my HP won't go down.

There's no problem in annihilating them after recovering myself.

One of the men who was able to snap out from the intimidation raised his big sword and attacked. I tilt my neck slightly to avoid it. Blades slightly graze the cheek and my HP drops to red zone.

—————The conditions for activating of Title【Red Crest】 have been met.

—————Activating Title【Red Crest】

“I will kill you. I will beat you all to death.”

Chapter 42

The pain from the slashes melted away and whole body felt light. Although my head was exploding with anger, but I was surprisingly calm. I turned back and cut off the neck of the long swordsman.

As the man screamed, <<Foresight>> warned me of an attack was coming at my back and I strongly kicked against the ground and jump at the same time. While confirming that the sword was still swinging towards the spot where I was at and let the tachi drop down as it is. When the one handed swordsman became aware of me, he looked up and opened his mouth in surprise . I thrust the sword into his mouth and push it all the way to back of his throat. The man's eye became wide open due to pain and vanished as grains of light.

An ax swung down from above at the same time I landed on the ground. It's quick. I held the sword above my head to stop the ax and repelled it back with all my strength. Then I rearranged my stance and moved back a step.

Kakehi was the one who swung the ax . He clenched his teeth and glared me with eyes wide open like a madman.

“Fuoooooooooooooooo!!!!”

He screamed like a beast and thrust himself while swinging his axe. Kakehi's action looked confusing at first glance but the ax has high offensive power. I can't approach carelessly if it's being

swung randomly like that so I stopped and activated <<Break Slash>>. I focused my eyes on Kakehi's Axes movements and at right moment struck with the tachi with full power. Tachi sinks into the ax and crushes it into pieces. Kakehi whose weapon was destroyed did not stop while grimacing and approached vigorously.

“Wh.., What.. What are youuuuuuuuuuu!!!”

I swung down my tachi. Kakehi was torn in half, became grains of light and disappeared.

“Youuuu, toooooooooooooo Kakehi!”

Smart uttered angry voices after Kakehi was murdered while swinging the blade of the sword with blue lighting. It seems that he activated some kind of skill. At the same time an attack was launched from Kedamaku also. They were simultaneous attack.

Just before the attack from both the directions hit me, I moved one step to the right and dodged. I found a opening and swung my tachi down from the sky towards the two bodies.

I could feel Smart's stomach tearing up and the sensation of hitting something hard. It seems that Kedamaku immediately stopped the attack with shield. Though It did not kill him but he was still blown off towards body of his friend.

He seemed pained while coughing, with his companion lying

under him, and licked his lips when he saw me . He made a smile like he had some kind of trump card and took out a rope out of item box. Warp Rope.

“Oooooii Kokuu! I’m goi’n backzzz already! Thiz guy seems to be hotblooded, quick-, so kill him quickly! Kaniyaaa! Withdraawww!”

While saying so, he used a warp rope. His body is wrapped in green light. Running away? I kicked the ground with a low posture and jump to the spot where he was. Warp hasn’t finished yet. I swung the tachi while aim at his neck. Kedamaku pushed out his shield, so I will cut the shield along with his neck . The blade got stuck in the shield —— a sheet of water surfaced.

“What!?”

“Let’s play again some other time boj’a!”

Although it should have slashed through the shield, the blade did not reach Kedamaku. His whole body covered in green light and disappeared. Shit! He ran away. Kaniya too seemed to used warp rope and covered in green light and disappeared from forest. Several remaining men too retreat using warp rope.

“That bastard, he ran away!”

Looking at the place from where the two of them disappeared, Kokuu clicked his tongue without hiding his irritation and scowled at me while shouldering the spear on his back.

“It’s almost impossible for him to leave him with this HP! To be able to survive so long! I’ll kill him! You all, get back!”

There were about five of his companions remaining. Five of them nodded to Kokku’s word and fell back as to not to become hinderance. They could run away but I absolutely won’t allow them to escape. I will kill Kokuu and others in single sweep.

“You killed a lot people! Well, didn’t you level up?”

Kokuu said with an unpleasant smile. Are you trying to shake me? Unfortunately I have no hesitation to kill you.

“Oh, I’m luckly to be able to level up just by killing small fish like you”

Kokuu who was smiling, twitched.

“I will kill you!”

“It’s my line you bastard”

Kokuu’s body was wrapped in bule light and left a blue trail like a comet. <<Comet Impact>>?. Trying to finish in one move? Interesting.

“<<Overlay Slash>>”

I will also end this in one move. Different from usual, tachi was overflowing somewhat dark and ominous light. A thick stagnant dark-silver light covers my whole body. The dark-silvery light clashes with Kokuu's blue light and scatter sparks. <<Comet Impact>> is a skill that pierces opponet with heavy blow. Contrary to this, my skill consisted of consecutive slashes. Although I'm at a disadvantage, I don't mind such thing. The tip of the spear and blade collide due to which I lose momentum and step back. Kokuu plunges in as much as he can. Without minding, he continues thrusting.

“Uooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!”

It happened thrice, black-silvery light ripped apart the blue light. Kokuu's right hand, which held the spear, slashed and I swung the tachi from his left shoulder to his right flank. Kokuu's dropped his spear and was blown away by the slash's momentum. He flung against the ground and cried in acute pain. 40% of Kokuu's HP is still left. I restrain the right hand of Kokuu who's writhing in pain on the ground and stab the tachi into his right foot.

“Guhh —gaah”

“Shut up”

He tried to scream so I stepped on his face and shut him up. I question him while stepping on his face.

“You said that you belong to <<Bloody Eyes>> a while ago. Tell

me all about it.”

Since he wouldn't be able to speak while stepping on him, so I kick aside the spear, step off and pull out the tachi from his foot stick it to his neck. If you do something unnecessary then I will kill you immediately.

“We..... We joined <<Ouroborous>> to feed information to <<Bloody Eyes>>, so to say”

“To whom, exactly?”

“I don't know! I was invited by Kedamaku to join <<Bloody Eyes>>, so he brings instructions in a letter from the top! Therefore Nobody actually knows!”

“Is that so? Then what's Kedmaku's position in <<Bloody Eyes>>?”

“Executive, that guy said so. Besides that I don't know!”

“Any other information about <<Bloody Eyes>>?”

“I, I only know this much! Also I only knew of the members who came today after coming here only!”

“I see.”

I readied my tachi.

“Wa-Wait! Spare me! I don’t want to die! No! Stop!
Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa”

Die!

I stabled his face with the tachi.

“Stop it already”

When I noticed, I was hugged by Rin from behind. Three men before my eyes had cuts all over their body and would die anytime soon. I thought there were two more people but apparently they were already dead. The three men were crying and begging for mercy by throwing away their weapons. Even after murdering Ryuu, they were still begging for their life.

Author Notes : With this Party Volume is over. Next is Event Volume.

Chapter 43

【Outbreak of war】 Blade Online conversation thread 1014::

544: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 23122

Sorry I was away, how bad is it?

Bulletin: <<Bloody Eye>> members have infiltrated <<Ouroboros>>.

545: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 81903

Three days left until the event I'm reserving a seat, It's my win.

546: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 69503

>> 544

Kwsk (TL: This was written in raw. No idea what author was thinking)

547: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 33211

>> 544

Are false rumors are being spread again to reduce the rating of <<Ouroboros>>?

548: ID:00211

>>545

Oh man... I still haven't made reservation yet....

＼(^o^)／

549: ID: 01639

>>546

Several dozen players including <<Lance Knight>> died by PK'ing. Dozens of members are missing from the guild. The three people who survived, confessed that they belong to <<Bloody Eye>> and have PK'ed in the past. Evidence suggests that the player who had murdered <<Lance Knight>> and players who disappeared from <<Bloody Eye>> entered the <<City of Criminals>>.

It is unknown who killed <<Lance Knight>> and rest of the players.

<<Ouroboros>> is intensifying inspection of their members.

or it seems so...

550: ID: 56743

>>549

To think that <<Lance Knight>> is dead ... Orz

551: ID:33211

>>549

Investigation is still going on. This story is circulating on many threads, especially on PK countermeasure threads.

<<Lance Knight>> he....

552: ID: 00325

Huh?

If the players who were killed belonged to <<Bloody Eye>> then why was he killed?

553: ID: 76547

<<Lance Knight>> also belonged to <<Bloody Eye>> ?

And to think he died.....

554: ID: 63125

>>552

Was it <<Ghouls>>? They get into many small fights with <<Bloody Eye>>.

555: ID: 66623

Are you seeing this Kedamaku, I will never forgive you all.

556: ID:00211

What an unexpected thing before the event.....

557: ID: 54678

The truth is still unknown....

558: ID: 94321

>>>555

For this to happen so suddenly.....

559: ID: 98321

>>>555

I am Kedamaku

560: ID: 69503

No, I am Kedamaku!

561: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 17403

No Idiot! I'm a Kedamaku!

562: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 63125

Since when have you all had the illusion that you are Kedamaku

563: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 00211

LOL hahahahahaha!

564: This adventurer is amazing! ID: 89656

No, in the end who was he.....

Chapter 44

<Worm Forest>, In a room of an inn, I was sitting on bed, and was patting Rin's head. Her tears were flowing out of her closed eyes, leaving a mark on her cheeks. I wiped it with my finger.

A few days after that event, after anonymously forwarding three people who survived to 'Criminal's Town' , Kokuu and his companion's information was anonymously forwarded to 'Ouroboros'. After that I rented a room at this inn and we did nothing and time passed slowly.

After trying to stop me from killing those three people, Rin also fainted. Although Rin was trying to act like a grown-up but after losing her brother, there was no reason to stay calm. After returning to town Rin's personality changed. She always displayed a forced smile, and tried to remain calm. That form resembled Shiori, and seeing that I felt my chest tighten.

Although her brother was dead, she was still not crying.

When Rin was making my favorite japanese food and she showed a forced smile, I hugged her. Her body trembled while saying "Ah.. aa a a?" and she seemed confused. Even I thought this reaction was normal. My body moved without permission and hugged her. I felt like hugging her and without noticing, I hugged her.

"You don't need to bear it anymore.. Please don't make it so difficult for yourself..."

While embracing her I muttered, Rin's body shook again.

“Ah..... ”

After saying so her voice began to waver, and she started weeping.

“tsu... . Very much difficult...”

“When you show such expression, It's very painful for me too... Please don't hold it in anymore..”

Before knowing it, I was also shedding tears and told Rin, as if begging.

Rin, who was silent for a while slowly extended her hand to my back and hugged me. Then buried her face in my chest and squeezed me as hard as possible and began to cry. I felt warm tears soaking my clothes, but I ignored it and stroked Rin's head.

That night, Rin entered my room and said “I want to be together with you until I sleep”. When Rin asked me this my chest tightened.

I arrived at Rin's room and I felt relieved seeing Rin's sleep peacefully. I was sitting on the chair while patting Rin's head. I looked for information of <Bloody Eye> and <Ouroboros> on the Bulletin Board.

The guild which the people who killed Ryu belonged to, I will absolutely kill them. And secondly, the guild <Bloody Eye> entered, <Ouroboros>. Until that top members doesn't apologize for death of Ryu I will not be satisfied.

The guild master of <Ouroboros> was champion of previous <Event>. Top rankers of this <Event> will be given seed rights. I really can't understand what management is thinking. Well...., that seems to be the case from the beginning.

Anyway, probably Kyuuryuu having seed rights will participate in <Event>. I already applied for participation in <Event>. I will win to top position and will have a word with Kyuuryuu.

While hunting for information, I fell asleep. Light was passing through crevice of the curtain. I suppressed my yawn and stood up from my chair and stretched my body because of sleeping in strange posture. After again suppressing my yawn I saw Rin sleeping on her bed, and suddenly a shock ran into my abdomen.

“Oufuu.... ..”

I lost my balance and fell to ground, I realized that Rin have jumped on me.

“Wha... what happened?”

Her body was trembling a little and the way Rin embraced me

was not normal, it seemed like she was scared of something. I balanced myself and patted the head of Rin while embracing her.

“Ryu, Ryu Ryu was killed ..., I... I was alone, I thought I was a grown up, but I became ... Yu, I thought it was a dream ... but it is real ... Ah, Akatsuki-san I can not fight, but I can cook ... I will do Anything, so please do not abandon me. ”

Apparently she dreamed of me abandoning her and she was left alone. It seems like she was afraid of being left alone. I strengthened my hug and said something in a tone which will relieve her.

“Don’t worry. Ryu entrusted you to me and I am not planning to abandon you even if someone told me to. I will take responsibility of you until we get out of this world. so don’t worry.”

“Don’t abandon me.....”

I hugged Rin who was trembling after saying that.

A few days later, the third ‘Event’ started.

Chapter 45

A huge dome floating in the sky far from Arcadia. As the <<Event>> is coming closer, will be able to go this place called the sky Dome from the warp gate of every town. Normally, one cannot go there whenever they want to.

A huge screen is set up inside sky dome with seats for watching participants of event. Players who want to see the <<Event>> directly must pay the money and reserve seats. It seems like that there are more seat reservation than ever for the third time. There are no sales of seats in the bulletin board.

Since rare entertainment items are released in the sky dome, there seems to be quite few players coming for them. There are various things available on sale such as a picture and videos of the players fighting at <<Event>>, a picture of an active player, a poster of players of last event with their nickname. I wonder why there is such amount of cheerfulness even though it is a death game. It's somewhat scary...

Just like the audience, participants must register beforehand in the Sky Dome. This time the minimum level required for participation in the event is level 50 and above. Since my level was 63 and cleared the restriction, it's was normal for me to able to participate.

This a PvP (Player vs Player) event. The number of participants seems to be around 150. The participants will be divided into groups and will fight until only few individuals are left. It's a so-called Qualifiers. The wing players will advance to Main Rounds of

the Event. By the way, the footage of preliminary round is not shown to the audiences. Instead these are sold to people after the completion of <<Event>>.

Since many people will be fighting all at once so, there may be people working in teams. I will be at disadvantage since I don't have any friends, but it's not a big problem for me. I will fully utilize the evasion techniques that I learned in the forest.

When I was asked to choose a participation name which will be displayed to everyone, I decided to name myself as <<Silver Blade>>. I chose this name because of silver light effect produced when using <<Overlay Slash>>.

Of course, I will be wearing mask when participating in <<Event>>. Why wear a mask? because it will be very uncool walking in the town after losing in <<Event>>. Anyhow I absolutely won't lose and I think person wearing a mask looks cool. Thinking back now, <<Masquerade>> would have been better than <<Silver blade>>.

Preliminary round was going to start in four hours. So, until then I will stay in the inn.

After taking a shower to relax. I wrote 人 on my palm for three times as a charm and swallowed it to ease my tension. Rin started cooking food in order to fire me up to win the tournament. What she made was, Katsudon. "Don wins the game" kind of meaning was put into katsu-don. Seems like a bad pun, but some people hold the same meaning for Katduson (TL: Not sure about this). Before giving my high-school entrance examination, I ate

Katsudon thinking “Don wins the examination”. But during the exam I don’t seems to remember about it.... I am not able to recall it.

I chuckled alone and got depressed while thinking about such worthless things. When I got off the bed and opened the door, Rin stood there with a smile.

“Onii-chan!! Meal is prepared.”

After hearing Rin’s dialogue, many people would have thought “What kind of erogé is this??”, but don’t worry, I also thought the same thing. I also noticed that Rin’s way of calling me changed from “Akatsuki-san” to “Onii-chan”. I don’t feel anything when my real sister calls me “Onii-chan” but when someone who is not my real sister calls me that my heart tingles. I thought of Ryuû saying to me “kora!! you can’t have my sister.” Don’t worry its ok because I am not a lolicon. I am absolutely not a lolicon.

Yeah, well that’s OK. I come down with the Rin and sit in the chair. On the desk were two bowls on which the thick cutlet wrapped around golden eggs were placed. I see the steam rising from them.

I gulped and swallowed the saliva in my mouth. I requested to Rin with my eyes for permission to eat. Rin laughed seeing my appearance.

“Well onii-chan! Do your best in today’s <<Event>>.”

“Hmm.... Thank you.”

It was impossible for me look into Rin eyes because It was very embarrassing to be called “Onii-chan”.

“Well then, let’s eat.”

“hm... Itadakimasu.”

Well, shall I eat it at once? At first, I ate the leading part of the cutlet. The soft egg, the crisp batter coat, and the thick katsu slices. I am already wining in life if I am able to eat this delicious Katsudon every day. No, I don’t understand anymore.

While thinking so I eat the Katsudon, I gobbled up the food, but for some time I was feeling uneasy. Rin was staring at me continuously while I was eating without even touching her Katsudon. Umm ... it’s becoming hard to eat. Like while studying when someone is watching you. I wonder if she wants me to give a reaction like “Uooh! This is delicious. Thank-you Rin.”, similar to a protagonist of a light novel? But this wouldn’t seem normal.... I somehow feel that reaction is not heart-warming.... I should at least say something.

When I looked up to her, glitter, she had happy eyes and a rare smile was on her face. Ahh... Such a powerful force..... be calm me. If you get excited here, you will act out of your character.... I

should speak normally to her.

“n.... oh.. This is delicious. Thank-you Rin.”

Oops! what the hell. I have taken the reaction of main character of some Light-Novel.

“ano.... Thank-you Onii-chan”

.....

I will definitely win in today's event.

Chapter 46

The preliminary round. It is conducted in a very large empty room inside the Sky Dome.

The rules of the competition are simple. You have to defeat the enemies that attack you and survive until the end of the competition is announced. The use of items is prohibited. Player whose HP reaches 0 will be transported to another room instead of dying.

It seems that there were more preliminary rounds being held in the rooms other than this one. I don't know the exact number of players in this place, but everyone here are strong people with lots of skill and experience. If you are negligent even for a moment you will be defeated. The only way to clear this round and advance to the next is going all out without any hesitation. Not to mention, I do not have any friends here. Among the players here, there will be a few who entered with their fellow guild members. Although the participants are divided randomly, there are bound to be several people who are in the same place as their friends. Therefore, people will probably work with their friends.

I don't intend to use rare skills here. It would be if best if I don't reveal my skills here, or some counter measures might be devised for them later in the competition by someone but it would be stupid if I get defeated while trying to hide them.

Each preliminary participant is given their own private waiting room. I was wondering if the Sky Dome was big enough to give players their own private room but, it seems that all the waiting

rooms were divided equally.

I was sitting on a chair in the waiting room, waiting for the preliminary to begin. Players of top guilds such as <<Ouroboros>> were also going to participate in the competition.

No matter how much I trained in the forest it is still not guaranteed whether I would win or not.

As I was being crushed by tension, my body started shining with green light.

“Sorry to have you kept waiting. The preliminary will begin immediately. All the players will be automatically transferred to the venue.”

As I was thinking, my sight was covered by light and I was transferred to a corner of the huge preliminary venue. Many players started transferring around me. An alarmed expression could be seen on everyone’s face as they looked around.

“The end of the preliminary will be indicated by an announcement. So, we request you to fight until then. Well then, players, we wish that you fight bravely.”

As soon as the announcement was finished, our bodies were covered with thin film of light. Apparently, this was supposed to prevent us from feeling pain. Oh well, I also really don’t want to feel pain from the fight.

I drew the tachi from my back and hold it. None of the players started attacking at the time of the beginning of the match. Everyone was holding their weapons and were surveying their surroundings. Is this instant what they call a critical situation??

My eyes fell on the man closest to me. His weapons were dual swords.

Our eyes became affixed and didn't move from each other. I held the sword in such a way that I am able to use it anytime. The battle would begin the moment a person took a step. I swallowed hard and readied myself.

In such a case the person who made the first move would obviously have the advantage, but why would you feel so I wonder...?

“First move wins.”

Even if you lose, you should cut down as many enemies as possible. I approached with a dash and before the opponent could move, I attacked with my tachi. The opponent's response was delayed by a moment and he received the attack while holding his dual swords in a cross. The blades struck each other and sparks flew. I strengthened my grip on the tachi and thrust the opponent away forcefully. He jumped back using <<Step>> instead of going against the attack.

As our fight began, everyone around me started fighting. I have

to be careful as this man was not my only enemy.

“It’s surprising that there is still someone who uses a tachi. I haven’t used it, but shouldn’t it awfully inconvenient to use, right?”

The dual sword user started talking to me while holding both his swords in alert.

“It’s easy to use once you get used to it.”

As I recalled that man’s words, it reminds me that this tachi was supposed to be unsuitable for combat. Ignoring everything else, nothing of that sort has happened with me. Why is that though? Is it because my skill level went up? I thrust my sword into the man as he asked these questions.

The man seemed have been waiting for me to come in. He activated his skill as soon as I came in range. The swords shone with blue light. The two blades simultaneously swung down diagonally from the right and left side. The skill he used was <<Cross Slash>>. I jumped to the right using <<Step>> to avoid the blades just before they could touch my body.

“Huh!? Isn’t that <<Step>> too fast!?”

Before the dual sword user could turn back, I used <<Four Slash>> and attacked him four times consecutively. His HP decreased by about 50%. The man jumped back and slashed with

his dual blades. I jumped back lightly to avoid them.

“Oi! Oi! Was that really <<Step>> you used just now!? Your figure completely disappeared!”

Due to <<Step>> being used very often it became very fast. Moreover, it is because of the same reason that all the other skills have also become powerful. It is impossible to shave HP by half using <<Forth Slash>> you get in the early state.

“uh-Oh!”

I used my tachi to block an attack from behind. Since I was using <<Foresight>>, it was possible to sense surprise attacks from behind. The man did not think that I would block the attack and raised a surprised voice “Woah..!!” I moved behind the man at a high speed and thrust my tachi.

“Looks like a very skilled tachi user has arrived here.”

The dual blade user muttered with a bitter smile.

Chapter 47

I turned back to look him who fell and thrust the sword towards the man's neck. My attacks were consecutively blocked by him using his weapon. He couldn't keep defending against all of my attacks and the tachi stabbed his neck.

clank

But just before the blade could pierce the man's neck, I heard a sound.

Was it a shield to prevent the player from feeling pain? But still, the man's HP bar steadily fell by 40%. I aimed at the neck which is a vital point to get an instant kill but it looks like it didn't work. It isn't that easy to hit to score a critical hit. Now that I think about it, It was almost impossible to hit vital points of Kokuu and his men during that fight.

Although there was no pain, the shocks seems to be transmitted so the man screamed and fell back. When I thought of this a chance to pursue him, <<Foresight>> detected an attack and jumped back instead. Next moment, a huge axe struck at the spot where I was standing and blew the ground apart.

“Ooh!?”

The attack looked like some kind of skill. I quickly avoided it using <<Step>> but couldn't make it in time and got caught up in the blast and was blown away. My HP slightly scraped off. The

man who was fallen seems to have been completely engulfed in the explosion. I do not know what exactly happened due to heavy sand clouds.

The dual swordsman tried to attack at me while I was blown away so I stabbed the tachi into the ground to regain my balance and ducked to avoid his attack. I pulled out the tachi while standing up and attacked him. The dual swordsman crossed his swords in front of his body to block my attack. He used one sword to parry my tachi and the other to thrust towards my chest. Before he could hit me, I kicked him in his belly with full power and disrupted him. I used this opportunity to slash across his face. I could feel that the tachi was hitting the shield. Once again without minding it, I again slash across his face. Sound of sparks could be heard while the man's HP decreased by more than the half. Before I could deliver another blow, he recovered himself. Wary of an attack, he put guard using the dual swords but suddenly shivered as a sound of hitting shield can be heard. His HP fell to 0 and transformed into grains of light and was transferred outside.

A woman with black hair tied in a ponytail appeared from behind the disappeared man. The protruding spear in her hand proves the fact that she killed the dual blade wielder. Her two dull eyes turned towards me and at that moment, when I thought that I could see a smile on her lips, her spear was pointed at me and was thrust in-between my eyes. Although I used <<Parry>> to avoid the attack, the figure of the woman disappeared once again.

—fast!!

She pulled back the spear as soon as I parried it and used <<Step>

>to move to my blind spot. It was not that fast that I couldn't see it but it was absurdly quick. I used <<Foresight>> to detect her presence diagonally behind me and turn around while flicking away the spearhead with tachi.

“Woah!!”

Her spear was shining blue. Looks like she activated a skill. The spear was thrust-ed at me repeatedly with an amazing speed. Seems to be <<Fifth Slash>>. I used the tip of the tachi to flick away the spear and moved to the back to evade the attacks. The woman's eyes opened wide, surprised that I evaded all the attacks. After a skill is activated there is always a cool-down time. That cannot be avoided. I activated <<Forth Slash>> and slash at her four times. The woman tried to block it with her spear but it looked like she couldn't match my power and was blown away. I couldn't make a direct hit but her HP fell by 10%.

Just as I thought that she was blown away she stabbed her spear into the ground and used to spear to turn on the spot and used to momentum to crash into me. In order to prevent that, I invoked <<Parry>>.

“Hah!”

The spear twisted like a snake. The spear that was thrusting towards my previous position, changed its trajectory above the tachi and headed towards my chest. Since the attack was unexpected, my reaction was delayed. I jumped back using <<Step>> but could not completely evade it and slightly struck my chest.

clank

A sound was heard as the shield was struck. At the same time a light shock ran through my chest.

I slide backwards across the ground. Naturally, I was wary of other players other than the girl in front me. Now, that I observed her spear, I could now understand by looking at its shape

[“Triple Staff”](#)

What she had in her hands was not just a spear. Although I couldn't confirm it, the spear had three joints which were connected by a chain. It was probably because the spear used to show joint movement like a snake. I guess, it's a Unique Weapon.

She saw my amazed expressing and with a prideful face and gripped her spear tightly. The spear made a rattling sound and the joints disappeared. What kind of a structure it has? No matter how you look at it, what she held now was a spear. Does this mean that it can change mode between a Triple staff and a normal spear?

“The movement of that spear. Is that the sub master of the <<Azure Blade>>, <<FunyaFunya>> Ra-san? ”

A man watching the fight from a distance, muttered while looking at her.

《FunyaFunya》. Ra-san, I do remember seeing that name once on the bulletin board.

Looking at her incomprehensible body movements and snakelike spear, The title 《FunyaFunya》is certainly fitting for her. One of the three title holders of <<Azure Blade>>. Indeed. Her strength is way above the man a while ago.

“Are you called Ra-san?”

When I asked about her name, her blank expression changed into an pleasant look and she gave a devilish smile. I was surprised by the sudden change in her looks.

“Hehehehe. That’s right. I am《FunyaFunya》 Ra-san(*´ω`*)”

She had a proud smile on her face. Maybe It’s just my imagination but I think she made an emoji at the end of the word. Ra-san wields the spear while having a smile on her face. What’s this? It’s cute but somehow looks a little bit annoying.

“Fufu. Well mask-kun, lets continue”(・д・)”

While saying so, Ra-san again changed to the expressionless face just like before and starts thrusting. While being dumbfounded with the talk, I somehow managed to stop the spearhead but was blown away in opposite direction. HP decreased slightly. Ra-san did not stop there.

When I thought the spear shone blue, something translucent revolved around the spearhead. What's that? Wind?

“《Storm Stab》!”

I probably couldn't protect against it using <<Parry>> so I jumped sideways using <<Step>>. That judgement was correct. From the thrusting spearhead, a wind twister was shot off with amazing power in straight direction. Several players who were fighting nearby were caught in it and blown away.

Seriously! What was that just now!?

“Arara, you dodged it huh? Don't move okay, mask-kun.”

The tone was playful, but her body was excluding tremendously sharp aura. A cold and sharp killing intent attacked me.

Crap.....

Sansetsukon. [Wikilink](#). Those who watched 36th Chamber of Shaolin would recognize it as the weapon San Te used in it.

Chapter 48

Seeing Ra-san slowly approaching me, I took a step back. I thought about this in battle with Kokku but compatibility between spear and tachi really is bad. If it's one-handed swordsman then one can defend themselves with shield against the spears and while with tachi you can flick away the spear and deliver a powerful attack. The <<Storm Stab>> from before was dangerous. I can't defend against it with <<Forth Slash>> and <<Parry>>. It's hard to clash against it without using <<Overlay Slash>> or that "New Skill"? I don't like to reveal all my trump card in qualifiers but It's not worth something to lose now.

I tighten my grip on the tachi and watch the lightly grinning Ra-san carefully. What should I do? Should I avoid the spear like I did while fighting Kokuu and attack with one-handed thrust? However, Ra-san's weapon is Triple Staff. It's spear now but don't know when it will transform . It's not a good idea to thrust when I haven't figured out how to counter Triple Staff. Shit.... What should I do!?

"What's wrong? If you won't come here then I will(ゝ°д)"

Ra-san rushed here. The spearhead shone blue and enveloped her. Then she starts running with Spear aimed at me. Behind it a blue light followed like a tail.

"<<Comet Impact>>"

It is a high ranking powerful spear skill. You can only counter

using it same powerful skill. I thought about avoiding using <<Step>> when there was more distance between us but It looks like I don't have enough time.

Should I use <<Overlay Slash>>? When I was going to activate it with tachi, the man wielding an axe crashed into Ra-san who was wrapped up in blue light. It was the man from before who had destroyed the ground a while ago. Ra-san eyes opened wide in surprise. However, since she was aiming her skill at me, she couldn't do anything to protect herself. The man's axe was shining blue.

“《Megaton Swing》! “

The axe tore up the blue light which was wrapping up Ra-san and drove into her sides. The barrier and axe grinded against each other, making violent sounds. Ra-san's <<Comet Impact>> activation was interrupted and was blown away. She flew away for so many meters, then crashed and tumbled on the ground. Her HP decreased to the orange zone.

I was surprised by this unexpected interruption but this not a 1V1 after all. It's natural that there will be chance to do surprise attack on already fighting players. The Axe-man who was smiling while being satisfied with the attack, ran towards the fallen Ra-san. She stood up using her spear as cane but did not have clear conscious because of impact. It will be difficult to defend from the man's attack.

Iyaa, that was close. It feels bad that I couldn't finish my battle with Ra-san. That man didn't attack me but Ra-san probably

because she was a Title Holder. You can easily make name for yourself by defeating Title Holders, even if its a surprise attack. You can't condemn him since it was such kind of match. That man could have also attacked me instead of Ra-san. I was lucky.

The man activated some skill and raised the axe greatly. She is trying to defend with her spear but probably won't be able to protect against it. I don't know he can her finish her with this attack but no doubt it will deal a fatal blow. Well she and I are enemies, so It doesn't really matter what happens to her, but I do have option to help her.

I get near the back of the man with <<Step>> and cut his neck with the tachi. The man was so excited to defeat a Title Holder that he was full of gaps. The attack dealt at vital point was successful and his HP instantly dropped to 0. Not knowing what happened, the man disappeared without being able to say anything. He had a very surprised look.

“Hoe? You saved me?”

Of course there was no such reason. Thanks to that man, now I had chance to defeat a Title Holder. If I can do it, I want to do it with my own hands. When I was going to cut down defenseless Ra-san, she suddenly sprung up. Never expecting something like this, I was taken by surprise.

(Crap)

In a hurry, I ready my tachi but couldn't do it in time but I didn't

feel that shock that I expected. Rather than attacking me, Ra-san grasped my hand and waved it around. What,.... What is this!?

“Thank You(*´▽`*)“

Showing a cheek-melting or rather relaxed smile, Ra-san thanked me.

“Ou” I could only give such reply after seeing such gap between this and her expressionless look . oioi..... If you show such reaction then I can't attack you like this.....

After waving around my hands, she let go of my hands when she felt satisfied.”Thanks m(__)m” said while lowering her head. “Ou” I once again replied. So awkward....

“yaaa, we got interrupted at such a nice time. I am totally exhausted. Let's continue this in Main Battle Mask-Kun(b´▽`)”

After saying so, she ran away from me. Where are you going? While being half-dumbfounded, she suddenly stopped running and looked back at me.

“Come at me for real next time”

She had a sharp smile that was different from the one a while ago, and looked full of spirit. After saying that she turned her back to me again and ran away. It looked as if it was a scene from a novel except that she had eccentric spirit which would not be

there in this kind of novel. I was completely defeated mentally. As I thought, I was saved by the interruption. If we continued to fight then I might have been defeated. She really is strong. After that I refocus on the match and avoid the slash from the one-handed swordsman from the back. It's going to be fun.

Though I didn't come to event to have fun, still I instinctively grin.

Chapter 49

I twisted my body while jumping sideways to avoid a female players big sword while vaguely swinging my tachi and ran away. I can't afford to face each player. I only have half of my HP left.

As the time passed, the battle between players became intense . Currently the only remaining ones are those who have teamed up with other players or strong solo players.

At first, I fought all the players who attacked me, but slowly my HP was reducing. So It would be best to avoid players before I get in trouble. Fortunately, I didn't come across very quick players like Ra-san so I was able to evade others attacks while attacking back. Even if I couldn't finish them myself, the other players would take this chance to attack the player. The female player from before will be probably finished by other players.

Ahead, four players were coming towards me holding weapons. I wonder if they are friends or cooperating with each other? If I deal with like normally then I will lose my HP in blink of an eye. Of course, I don't plan to fight them. I will thrust into them as they are. They did not think that I would just come towards them as it is and were surprised for a moment. I didn't miss that chance and powerfully kicked against the ground and jumped. Then I kicked towards the ground in empty air and jumped up one more level. I had used <<Sky Walk>>. You can jump up as many times as you want as long as you have enough stamina, but twice is enough for now. I pass the players from above and land on the ground. Then attacked their open backs with <<Void Slash>>, turned back and ran again. Though <<Sky Walk>> was one of my trump cards, it wouldn't be a problem for now since it looked like I was using

<<Two Step Jump>>.

But If I was attacked by a group from some other direction like before, it would be quite troublesome. While thinking so , I came up with something. Though the qualifying venue was quite wide, it was not endless but there was a wall in front. The venue is square shaped. In other words, If I move along the wall then it means that I won't be attacked from all directions. It will be easy to avoid.

While understanding, I immediately started moving towards the wall. While avoiding the spears from behind, I ran towards nearest wall. Although I was attacked many times on the way, I avoided all of them and made my way towards the mall. In <<Bloody Forest>>, I avoided lots of fatal attacks. Compared to that, It was easy to avoid attack by players here. Even so, there were a lot of times that I was grazed, quite a risky scene so as to say.

“Yoshi”

A huge white wall at the corner of the venue. At last, made it. If I move along this wall I can survive easily. After that, I was attacked from rear and evade in panic and then ran along the wall without looking back. The attacks would only come from three direction – front, back and left. It's easy to avoid.

In front of me, a player who was running who was also running along wall attacked me. The long sword shined blue while being raised up. He's trying to activate a skill. I increased my speed and slashed his unguarded belly before he could swing it down. Since the players are protect by barrier therefore I slash again. I still haven't been beaten yet but can't afford to keep fighting forever.

After kicking against the ground, I run along the wall again.

I thought that if I ran along the wall it would be easier to survive, but it seems like it isn't going as well as I thought. Many players began attacking me in order to crush me into the wall. At first, I was able to avoid by running around, but I was attacked by many players from all 3 directions at the same time. I had no choice but to get away from the wall. A blade slashed my shoulder which reduced my HP to orange zone. It's slowly turning real bad.

After breaking away from wall, I couldn't understand where to go and ran around the venue without any thoughts. And then I was being targeted and chased by cooperating players. Since I was acting alone I looked like an easy prey.

While I would run away from one player, I would be attacked by another player, so naturally my HP gradually decreased. It's still not in red zone, but will be soon. It looks impossible to fight alone. The number of players acting solo are decreasing one by one. If I continue as it is, I will be killed by some group. Well if that's the case, then I will talk to some other player about cooperating. As I make my way through approaching players, I arrive at the spot where another player is fighting alone like me. The name of that player is...

“Ra-san ! Lets team up!”

I call out to the girl whose black-haired ponytail was swaying in

the air while warding off the attacks quickly with her spear. Ra-san without saying anything, immediately pierced the chest of enemy in front of me and frighteningly kicked him flying at some place. After that she stabbed the spear at that spot and turned this way.

“Didn’t we agree to meet in the main battle?... Our reunion is far too early....(;´▽`)”

“Though I don’t like this but..... Why don’t we team up to survive longer? Yesterday’s enemy is today’s friend!””Not even two hours have passed yet!(°△°)”

“That’s right but-!”

“Besides, you can survive if you go all out right?”

“.....”

While we were having such conversation, the players surrounded us.

“<<Storm Stab>>”

“<<Four Slash>>”

A tornado was released from the spearhead of Ra-san which blew off the players and the blade of my tachi glowed blue and use 4 consecutive slashes at players who were close to us.

“Oh well! I understand ! Let’s fight to together Mask-Kun (ゝ°
д)!!!!!!!”

” Ah, I owe you one”

“In return, come at me with full power in main battle (° ∇ °) !”

“Of course!”

Chapter 50

“Fuu, I am tired.”

With the qualifiers over, me and Ra-san were sitting on chair in resting rooms in the sky dome. We bought ourselves canned juice from a vending machine and made a toast to celebrate for clearing the qualifiers. Not only unusual tasting drinks but carbonated drinks of real world were sold in the vending machines of this game. I don't know the details but in exchange for (financial) support, they seemed to have signed a contract to sell the drinks in game. So not only drinks but there was food from real world too.

I chose Cola while Ra-san chose a strange juice called [Electric Bomb Lemon Cider]. I felt the sweetness and fuzziness of the cold cola as it flowed down my parched throat. It still has that nice familiar taste. While thinking so, I looked at Ra-san who was drinking Electric Bomb Lemon Cider. I could hear dangerous crackling and buzzing sounds from the can she was holding and without any hesitation started drinking it. She removed the can from her mouth, gave out a cheeky sound and once again drank the cider. As i stared at her and thought that it was quite hard to guess whether it was tasty or not from her reaction, she noticed me and gave me the can, thinking that I wanted to taste it.

“Oh sorry.”

The moment I received the dangerously sounding can, the thought of in-direct kissing came in my mind but the person in question didn't mind it so I started drinking. When the cider came in, something crackling hit my mouth. My tongue become numb

due to the crackling and buzzing and it slipped down my throat as it is.

I almost choked.

While choking, I thanked her and gave her the can back and she vigorously gulped it down without showing any expression. Even though I could only manage just a sip, she gulped it all down once..... I can't do it.

After a while, I finished my juice.

By the way, I was wearing a skeleton mask so my mouth was exposed since the mask which hid my mouth was suffocating.

“Even so Mask-kun..... Eh, or should I say Silver Blade? You really are strong('▽`)”

Ra-san smiled as if the expressionless face while drinking wasn't there. Her expression changes are too quick after all.....

“No, Ra-san was the one who amazing with her spear. You didn't let the surrounding players get close.”

After that, we moved towards the wall of the field while shoving away the attacking players and continued to move along the wall just as I was doing before. I chopped down the players who were in front while Ra-san pierced the players behind. At first, only some groups were attacking us but most of the players were avoiding us

till the ends. Still, some players were attacking us. Among them, was a very strong dual-blade user who was a high-schooler and challenged us before the end of the qualifiers. Since he came from front so I fought him but he was quick and his hits were quite heavy. He's having such a skill level that it wouldn't be strange for him to be a title holder. Though I didn't lose, but if I had kept fighting like that I would have certainly lost. He was that tough of an opponent. Black short hair and sharp eyes. I think I have seen him somewhere. I can't remember him as my memory was vague, but for a second, that face, somewhere.....

“Well, at any rate I am tired. My HP was pretty low so It was nice that qualifier ended at that time.(・∀・)”

“.....”

“Silver-kun(・∀・)??”

“.....”

“Silver Blade-kun(・∀・)?”

“Huh? Ah! Sorry, I was thinking for a bit and didn't hear you.”

I got caught up thinking about the dual-wielder and entered my own world. Ra-san glared at me while sighing.

“No, It's my bad”

“You were thinking – ‘Ra-san sighed while staring at Silver-kun’ but It was a yawn.”

“Huh?”

“That gentle sigh, was a yawn.”

“Eh?”

“Yes, It was a yawn.”

No, I didn’t understand..... Ra-san once again sighed(or yawn?) and suddenly stood up.

“In other words, I am tired, sleepy and going back to home. I will sleep in my home.”

“Well thanks for teaming up today. As promised, I will fight with my full power in the main battle.”

“Aye-aye♪”

She nodded and left the rest chamber. What a strange child..... Well at any rate, I advanced through qualifiers splendidly. Only 6 people can advance through qualifier. Looks like three players declined their seeding rights this time. And because of that, the total no of players resulted in incomplete numbers.

Only the strongest would reach main battle. Any player can defeat me If I give them a chance. I fought four strong players in qualifiers, including Ra-san and that dual-wielder guy. They are strong so I have to give my all If I meet them in main battle. There are several days before main battle takes place. In the meantime, I will go to the Area and improve my skills more.

I got up and left the rest room. Rin is waiting for my return at the hotel. Let's hurry back and tell her that I won. I am looking forward to the celebration meal.

If I had gone out of the rest room a bit more late or at-least turned back.

I would have recognized.

The person who had entered the resting room.

The owner of that familiar red hair.